

## MARKET BRIEF

# Wireless LANs Broaden K-12 Learning

K-12 school districts face significant challenges educating future citizens in a cost-effective way while meeting ever-stricter standards for student achievement. Districts must help students excel at standardized tests, ensure that teachers meet training and qualification standards, and maximize parental involvement to give students the support they need at home.

District IT departments must support an ever-wider range of applications, ranging from attendance tracking to grade reporting to distance learning. Yet they must do so in an environment where funding fails to keep pace with the increased demands on IT.

Reliable, adaptable, scalable wireless LANs help districts meet all these challenges by making access to the Internet and email available in more of the locations where students, teachers or administrators need it.

Wireless LANs make it easier for students to take part in Web-based classes taught by experts in other locations; to browse through far-off libraries, to create email friendships with students on the other side of the world and to access anything from online encyclopedias to sophisticated economic modeling tools. For teachers, wireless LANs provide access to online curricula, courses that help them stay current



on the latest teaching methods, and the email on which they may rely to keep in touch with parents, fellow teachers and administrators. Administrators use wireless LANs to access business applications and to communicate and coordinate with their peers and teachers.

As more school districts adopt programs providing notebook computers to every student, an increasing share of Internet access is being done from wireless notebook computers, rather than from desktop computers using a wired connection. The most recent report from American Digital Schools shows that close to 20% of all student devices today are mobile, and that 52% will be mobile by 2011. Deploying wireless LANs can help districts provide connectivity to the mobile devices used today, and in the future, without the expense of laying additional cable.

Besides helping to increase the productivity of students, teachers and administrators, wireless LANs also pave the way for the use of handheld devices equipped with Wi-Fi connections, such as the iPhone, to access the Web and district email systems. Wireless LANs can also connect with IP-based camera and surveillance systems to help monitor school safety, and with RFID asset tracking systems to help reduce theft and help assure the most efficient use of expensive district equipment.

### K-12 Wireless: The Demands

- **Meet standards for student achievement and teacher training**
- **Support rising number of educational and administrative applications**
- **Avoid the costs of rewiring school buildings to accommodate mobile devices**
- **Provide more services without spending more**



### AT&T Wi-Fi Solutions for K-12

AT&T Wireless LAN Service provides all the hardware, software and services required to provide reliable and scalable wireless LAN service for school districts of any size.

The AT&T Wireless LAN solution is implemented as a logical overlay on the existing wired network. This not only eliminates the need to reconfigure the existing wired network, but allows the wireless network to make use of services on the wired network such as security features and quality of service. The AT&T Wireless LAN architecture allows centralized management and troubleshooting of the wireless network to help reduce operating expenses and improve reliability, as well as fast roaming across subnets to increase performance even while users are on the move.

### K-12 Wireless: The AT&T Solution

- Scalable, software-upgradable access points
- Overlay architecture centralizes management, eliminates network reconfiguration
- Access points also scan for threats, “rogue” access points
- Identity-based security features
- Professional services ranging from site survey to ongoing maintenance

AT&T Wireless LAN access points are easily scalable to accommodate any size space, from dense classrooms to large school buildings, and for various bandwidth requirements up to those required for demanding applications such as video.

AT&T supports this wireless infrastructure with a wide range of services that span every phase of a wireless deployment. These services range from site surveys through configuration, network tuning, post-installation testing as well as ongoing maintenance.

As students, teachers and administrators go mobile, school districts can provide them the fast, reliable and scalable Web access they need with AT&T Wireless LAN Service.

For more information, please visit <http://www.corp.att.com/edu/k12/>

**For more information contact your AT&T Representative or visit us at [www.att.com/business](http://www.att.com/business).**