



## Case Study: West Springfield Public Schools



**Summary:** On December 15, 2011 The Town of West Springfield broke ground on the new 257,500 square foot High School designed to serve 1,270 students from grades 9 through 12. The school was designed and constructed to meet the state's Green School requirements and to achieve LEED for Schools Silver certification.

**Challenges:** Like most municipalities in New England, West Springfield had to find a way to integrate next generation technology on a limited purchase and support budget. The district was planning to have 1200 Chromebook devices in the student's hands in September of 2014. The new facility needed a robust infrastructure to support HVAC, Security, Video on Demand, Digital Signage, Voice over IP, and Wireless to name a few. West Springfield also planned to occupy the new facility "mid-year" after the one week February vacation. WSPS also had a robust district fiber network to integrate with the new facility while maintaining full operation in the existing school. Like all construction projects, there would be a fairly lengthy design/build phase with a rush for completion at the end.

**Solution:** West Springfield Public schools met with Whalley Computer Associates on many occasions during the design/build phase. WCA leveraged their 33 years of experience providing technology to the education community to help design a 21st century solution. WCA also provided a "Proof of Concept" for the use of the Chromebook technology to run Windows applications. After a formal RFP process, WCA was chosen as the Technology Systems Integrator to oversee and manage all aspects of technology in the new school. For the infrastructure, WCA implemented an HP Procurve solution providing 10GbE backbone with 1GbE with Power over Ethernet to support all the devices. Aerohive Wireless was installed to support secure 1:1 WiFi throughout the 257,000 s/f facility as well as integrate with the rest of the district. For administrative and academic computing WCA built a virtual infrastructure with Dell VRTX Blade/SAN. Two separate virtual infrastructures support all the server technology required to run the school as well as provide a platform to publish Windows apps to the Chromebook devices

**Benefits:** In February of 2014, West Springfield High School opened its doors on-time, and with a 21st century infrastructure. The IT staff at WSHS have a solution that they can centrally manage, and has the agility to support the rapid changes of the education landscape.

### Industry

K-12 Education  
West Springfield, MA

### Environment

- Limited Purchase & Support Budget

### Challenges

- Need for a robust infrastructure to support various applications
- Integrating network

### Solution

- Chromebook technology
- Run Windows applications
- WCA Managed Services
- Installation of Aerohive Wireless