



# WI-FI TO SKYROCKET WIRELESS CAPABILITIES

## Madison County School System Leverages ADTRAN ProCloud for 20,000 Students

### The Challenge

Madison County is recognized as the “birthplace” of Alabama, founded in 1819. The county has a strong history in innovation that started when a group of rocket scientists came to Redstone Arsenal in 1950. A modified version of the group’s Redstone Rocket launched the first two Americans into orbit, and as a result launched tens of thousands of new jobs to the area during the Space Race. Ever since, Madison County has been a hub for ingenuity and progressive thinking. As the population in Madison County continues to blossom, the local school district does too. The Madison County School System currently consists of 28 schools that serve over 20,000 students. It is dedicated to providing an innovative learning environment and has launched a BYOD initiative and is eyeing a 1:1 computing program. In order to support aggressive technology plans, and to align with the Alabama 2020 statewide technology initiative, the school district needed to boost its wireless network to support more devices and data.

### The Solution

ADTRAN ProCloud managed service for Wi-Fi makes it easier and more efficient to manage the district’s growing wireless network, allowing the district’s IT department to offload network management activities.

### Benefits

- **Madison County School System can scale its network faster.**
- **Teachers and students can access a capacity-rich network that is making the learning experience more engaging and exciting.**

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## Data Demand Blastoff

To prepare its students for a data-driven world and support Madison County's dedication to innovation, the school district encourages the use of technology in the classroom. It implemented a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative, and is looking to launch a 1:1 program to provide a laptop or tablet to each student.

By integrating advanced tools and technologies into daily learning exercises, teachers within the Madison County School System create a more dynamic learning environment that fosters creativity and excitement for education. However, as more data filled the classroom and more devices joined the network, the school system's legacy wireless infrastructure wasn't able to efficiently scale to meet the growing demand.

"We've been wireless for a number of years, supporting wireless needs for faculty and technology carts with laptops and tablets for students. But as we added more wireless devices to our inventory, we realized that our current wireless infrastructure wasn't strong enough to handle more," explained Tommy Whitten, district technology coordinator for Madison County School System.

## Madison County Schools Offload Wireless Duties to ADTRAN

When evaluating solutions for its wireless network upgrade, Madison County School System needed a solution that offered advanced scalability. Additionally, the district's IT department was small and it often felt strained to support all 28 schools and two administrative offices. Solutions that would allow the district to offload management activities were very attractive, given only one network manager and four field technicians support the entire network.

Madison County School System chose ADTRAN ProCloud managed service for Wi-Fi. The solution enables Madison County School System to augment IT resources and maximize network investments because the Wi-Fi service is monitored 24/7 by ADTRAN experts. Because ADTRAN ProCloud is cloud-managed, Madison County School System can easily log in to view and manage the entire network as needed, from anywhere on any device at any time. The managed service also provides cost-effective scalability to make it easier and more efficient to manage the needs of a growing wireless network, including 1,000 new 802.11ac access points across high density areas, such as libraries, cafeterias and gymnasiums.

"ADTRAN enables us to offload wireless network management. The company does a great job providing technical advice and support and as a result we have more time to take on some of the other fire fighting," Whitten added.

# MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

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## Wireless Reaches New Heights

Since deploying the ADTRAN ProCloud managed service for Wi-Fi, Madison County School System has received positive results and feedback. Furthermore, the district is leveraging new E-rate funding to deploy ADTRAN NetVanta switches across eight of its schools.

“We see a lot of future with ADTRAN. They came in at the right time for us. It’s been great. It’s much more than a traditional customer-provider relationship – it’s a partnership,” said Whitten.

But the real value of the new cloud-managed wireless network extends further than that. “This solution allows us to provide better services to our schools. Teachers and students can access a capacity-rich network in order to find and utilize the advanced content that is making a difference in students’ eagerness to learn. That’s what it’s all about,” Whitten added.



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