

# GEORGIA SCHOOL DISTRICT OPTIMIZES FIBER OPTIC NETWORK WHILE DRAMATICALLY REDUCING ANNUAL COSTS



Effingham County School District in Springfield, GA takes great pride in an educational approach that places the student at the center, providing a broad range of learning opportunities to help pave the way for successful graduates. With 14 schools in the district, one of which is a career academy offering coursework ranging from Graphic Design and Culinary Arts to Energy and Power Technology, the district works to stay abreast of cutting-edge technological advancements. To support this top-notch level of education, delivering reliable technology to each school plays an important role.

## CHAMPION ONE SOLUTION

10 PAIRS OF 20KM SINGLE FIBER GBIC TRANSCEIVERS

ONE PAIR OF 40KM SINGLE FIBER GBIC TRANSCEIVERS

In Georgia, the state provides funding for a network consortium that serves all Georgia's schools. The consortium provides each district with three megabits of bandwidth per school via one connection at the district's central office. From there, it's up to the district to engineer the most reliable – and cost effective – network architecture to get broadband access to the schools.

For several years the Effingham County School District had leased 52 miles of fiber for its IT network on a month-to-month basis. The district's fiber provider, Planters Rural Telephone Cooperative, a local telephone co-op, which delivers solid service and support while offering extremely competitive rates. The network architecture included two strands of fiber in a ring topology running from point-to-point, from one school to the next, to service most of the district's schools.

However, the downturn in the economy reduced revenues from both state and local sources, placing the school in a difficult situation. It was imperative that Effingham County schools continue to receive the level of bandwidth required for their many programs as well as the district's powerful new website. However, as with many school districts across the country, Effingham County, faced with an ever-tightening budget, looked for ways to continue to innovate while reducing costs.

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## Effingham County Does The Research

The school district's information technology and media services coordinator Jeff Lariscy wasn't about to let the schools suffer a technological setback.

"Technology is vitally important to this school district's day-to-day mission," Lariscy said. "In addition about 95 percent of the central office's applications are web based. We need to keep them operating optimally."

Lariscy decided it was time to research the fiber optics industry for advancements that could help solve the district's problem. Searching the Internet for possible solutions, Lariscy came across information detailing the features and benefits of single fiber or bi-directional optics. Lariscy learned that with current technology a single fiber optic would both send and receive a full duplex signal across a single strand of fiber, doubling capacity and reducing leasing costs. Implementing single fiber optical transceivers could greatly optimize his district's fiber plant.

A further search turned up Champion ONE, a national company that provides an extensive line of carrier-grade optical network products, most of which are continually in stock, and backed by an exceptional warranty. What's more, Champion ONE's carrier-grade products are compatible with nearly all of the industry's leading OEM platforms and built to the MSA and IEEE standards. Just as important was the company's excellent reputation for service, pricing and support, which Lariscy heard about through his counterparts at Missouri State University; a satisfied Champion ONE customer.

## Innovation Drives Substantial Cost Savings

The school district enlisted Champion ONE, which quickly implemented a solution not available from Cisco. Using a total of 11 pairs of Champion ONE single fiber GBICS, the district was able to greatly reduce the quantity of fiber it leased.

In addition, Champion ONE's products offer digital diagnostics, also known as digital optical monitoring. This diagnostic capability is supported by the majority of switches and enables monitoring of the school district's optics (i.e., light levels) in real time. A function welcomed by the digitally savvy district.

**"THE CHAMPION ONE SOLUTION HAS ALLOWED US TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE ROBUST NETWORK OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REQUIRE AND THE COST SAVINGS ARE PHENOMENAL"**  
- JEFF LARISCY

Moreover, reclaiming fiber with Champion ONE's solution, the school district reduced its fiber costs by 50%, which equated to a recurring savings of approximately \$25,000 per year.

"The Champion ONE solution has allowed us to continue to provide the robust network our educational programs require and the cost savings are phenomenal," Lariscy said.

In addition to its high-quality innovative products, exceptional warranty and unsurpassed availability, Champion ONE prides itself on outstanding service and support. Known as In A Class By Itself Service™ the company consistently works to exceed every customer's expectations.