



# Collier County Public School District Relies on AMD Opteron™ Processor Powered HP ProLiant Server Blades for 24/7 Learning



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Nestled in Naples on the southwest coast of Florida, Collier County Public School District is located in what is commonly considered an affluent area. In contrast, almost half of the district's student population is economically disadvantaged. Of the district's 44,000 total students, 49 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch. Roughly 40 percent of students are Hispanic or Latino, and almost 10 percent are Haitian or African American.

The school district has vowed to give every student equal access to the latest technology — eliminating any kind of digital divide — while delivering excellence in its curricula. The district currently features a two-to-one student computing ratio with 22,000 HP desktop computers. In addition to the desktops, the district also has a video projector, document camera and sound system in every classroom. There are hundreds of instructional applications on the district's network, as well as video conferencing and streaming media that deliver educational opportunities to students in a variety of manners.

The district is currently implementing a Virtualized Desktop Initiative, with the goal of developing the largest virtualized desktop environment in the world. Instead of having traditional PCs at remote sites, the district uses AMD Opteron™ processor powered HP ProLiant server blades — self-contained computer servers designed for high-density usage — to host the district's HP desktops remotely and connect to them in a data center. By installing virtualization on the blade server, it enables computing power to be distributed to multiple operating systems, with each user having his or her own processing power, memory and hardware. "We thought we'd be able to get 12 desktops per blade server, but we've actually been able to scale much higher than that," says Tom Petry, network technology coordinator for the Collier County District School Board. Instead, Petry thinks the district can double that number, allowing for 24 desktops per blade server. "It will enable us to cut costs, thanks to AMD64's dual-core technology," Petry adds.

Because of the AMD technology, the district is "completely centralized and we don't have to worry about remote issues," Petry adds. "The implementation is definitely meeting our standards, and in some ways exceeding them."

The district leases the technology so it is able to refresh every three years. "We're very lucky that we were able to show [the school board] that it was a cost-neutral initiative," Petry says. "The cost of centralized computing is so much lower."

And it isn't just the cost that is aiding the district. Student achievement is also increasing thanks to the technology. "We have seen increased reliability and availability of applications and data to users," Petry explains, "which results in students being able to use technology more often. They are able to do more because technology is more readily available to them." More importantly, Petry adds, centralized computing allows for anytime, anywhere learning. "Students can go anywhere in the district or the world and are able to access the network. It's 24/7 learning."



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