



Securing students' chromebooks in time for back to school

Success Story

odp BUSINESS SOLUTIONS™



A school district's plan to secure new Chromebooks with federal funding for its K–12 students was nearly derailed by microchip shortages.

The school district was set to purchase \$6.5 million of new Chromebooks for its students in early 2020. With about a year until the school needed them, the district's original equipment manufacturer (OEM) partner committed to delivering the Chromebooks on time.

But when most manufacturing was strained all over the world in March 2020, it caused shortages of products from groceries to furniture to microchips — including the kind that the OEM needed to build the Chromebooks. The disruption in supply meant the OEM would miss the district's deadline, leaving more than 15,000 students and teachers without vital technology.





Saving the Day: Empowering a District for Success

When manufacturing delays sidetracked a school district's plan to equip more than 15,000 students with Chromebooks, the district turned to ODP Business Solutions™. The ODP Business Solutions team listened to the district's needs, found a new supplier, coordinated the setup services and helped the students and their teachers return to school with the technology they needed.

Students returning to their classrooms is a sign of hope that many people have waited for since 2020. ODP Business Solutions is committed to enabling educational achievement, and in this case, having the Chromebooks available signaled a win beyond the schools themselves.

Most of the district's community members — students, parents, teachers and neighbors — are excited to send people back to school. A strong relationship between the district and ODP Business Solutions helped pave the way.





Discovery

ODP Business Solutions™, having won a competitive bidding process at the start of this technology initiative five years earlier, already had a solid relationship with the district. That's how the district's project leaders knew they could trust the ODP Business Solutions team to grasp the urgency of the situation and help solve the problem.

The ODP Business Solutions team met with the district and listened carefully to understand the business objective and the full scope of the services the district required. They included coordinating with the district and the supplier, plus providing software services.

The teams agreed that keeping the current timeline and working with a new supplier was the best option. While the decision was relatively easy, setting the plan in motion by finding a new manufacturer was not.

The biggest challenge was the timing: Originally, the district was to roll out the new Chromebooks in spring 2021. After all the delays, the launch was moved to coincide with the start of the 2021–22 school year — but even that timeline left just five to seven weeks for a new OEM to build and deliver all the devices in order for the purchase to qualify for federal funding.





Solution



The ODP Business Solutions™ team sought and identified potential suppliers that could jump into the time-sensitive job successfully. Leveraging its industry experience and connections with other OEMs, ODP Business Solutions soon found another supplier that had the technology available and could meet the aggressive schedule. The ODP Business Solutions team coordinated the project and successfully managed the schedule, so the school district could meet its objectives.

Once the Chromebooks were delivered, ODP Business Solutions connected with a local Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) to provision each device and rewire 401 carts at the district's schools to enable charging and safekeeping.



Results

ODP Business Solutions™ successfully managed the manual provisioning of 15,200 Chromebooks and the rewiring of 401 on-site carts.

Along the way, the ODP Business Solutions team guided the second OEM to on-time delivery of all the devices — with less than seven weeks' turnaround time — and coordinated constant communication among the district, supplier and third-party vendors.

The project was bigger than the delivery of Chromebooks: Its success meant that students and teachers could return to school with the technology they expected. After an unsettling year of learning from home, the Chromebooks would help the district's students get back on track more easily.

Learn more.

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Success Story | 6



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