

The Kimmel Group's TKG.Ed division provides Tech Overhaul for HWACS

Hardy Williams Academy Charter School (HWACS) is a Pre-K through 8th grade charter school located in Southwest Philadelphia that services close to 900 students. Their campus includes 3 buildings and houses over 100 staff members, mainly teachers. Their mission is "to demonstrate the heights of academic achievement that public school students can routinely attain when provided superior educational opportunities, including a structured, proven curriculum and a safe and orderly environment."

The Challenge

Technology is critical to HWACS as it is to most organizations. HWACS was spending a significant portion of their yearly budget on outsourced tech services from another provider. Those services were unreliable and were not meeting the needs of HWACS. In addition, the provider's response times were abysmal with one incident leaving the HWACS computer network down for over 2 weeks. HWACS certainly was not "getting what it paid for" and was taking money away from other critical areas to fund an inadequate solution.

The TKG.Ed Solution

The implementation of the TKG.Ed Solution was simple and straightforward. It started with a technology survey which identified the critical components that needed to be replaced. Following was a **Technology Plan** that outlined the components required along with the specific products and part numbers for easier procurement. TKG.Ed researched and identified a new Internet Service Provider which provided *twice the bandwidth at half the cost* of the former provider. With a tight summer schedule, TKG.Ed was able to stage and deploy all the equipment including an Internet firewall, network switches, multiple servers for email, file and print, storage, virus protection and web filtering and the Blackberry Solution in time for the students' return from summer recess.

The Bottom Line

TKG.Ed was able to deliver a solution that **reduced costs, minimized downtime** and **increased productivity** for HWACS. Students can browse the Internet in a content-filtered, high-speed environment. Teachers can access their email from home. Administrative staff can communicate and coordinate schedules 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with the Blackberry Solution which includes devices and a server.



Hardy Williams Academy Charter School, (HWACS)

Southwest Philadelphia

HWACS was spending an enormous amount of money on technology services that were unreliable, inefficient and did not meet their needs.

Critical Needs

- Reliable and secure high-speed Internet
- Business-class E-Mail with Remote Access
- Handheld Access to E-Mail and Calendars

Solution

TKG.Ed Solutions

Results

- Reduction in technology costs
- Reimbursement of I.T. costs due to our status as an E-Rate Service Provider
- Improved, secure Internet Access
- Business class e-mail with remote access via web and handheld access via the Blackberry Solution
- Faster network connections
- Minimal downtime
- Rapid response to technical issues
- Ongoing proactive systems monitoring

Technologies In Use

Microsoft Windows Server 2008
 Microsoft Exchange Server 2007
 Microsoft Office Pro 2007
 Microsoft Windows Storage Server 2008
 Blackberry Enterprise Server
 Blackberry Curve and Tour Devices
 WebSense Express
 Symantec Endpoint Protection
 Dell Servers and Switches
 Cisco Firewall and Netgear Switches

