



Education Networks of America

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**ENA COMPLETES MAJOR WAN CONNECTIVITY AND VOICE COMMUNICATION UPGRADES AT MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS ENABLING INSTRUCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS**

NASHVILLE, TN, May 25, 2010—Education Networks of America (ENA), the nation’s leading provider of managed Internet access, network and communication services to schools and libraries, has successfully completed the implementation of two major information technology projects for Memphis City Schools (MCS), Memphis, TN. The projects enhance educational opportunities as well as operational efficiencies for the district. The first project was a complete redesign and upgrade of the district’s ATM network infrastructure to an IP based high-speed, fiber-optic wide area network (WAN) to support online applications and enhanced Internet access. The second project entailed upgrading the district’s voice over ATM telephony system to ENA’s fully hosted Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service, *ENA Connect*. The five-year contract was awarded to ENA in January 2009 and the installation of the WAN and *ENA Connect* VoIP service was completed in April 2010, which included the transition of 190 sites and the installation and configuration of 13,500 telephone and fax extensions.

MCS, the largest public school system in Tennessee and the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest in the nation, operates over 200 campuses and serves more than 105,000 students. Like many large, urban school districts, MCS faces budgetary constraints, the growing needs of an expanding school system and the challenges of adequately preparing all students for life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Under the contract, all MCS schools have received a state-of-the-art connectivity infrastructure and managed network solution from ENA that delivers greatly increased network and Internet capacity, speed and reliability for deploying critical instructional and administrative tools. Additionally, each school now enjoys a cutting-edge, fully redundant telephony system for improved communications. Both solutions offer the scalability and flexibility the district requires for future growth and deliver enhanced capability and performance at a tremendous cost savings to MCS. “After our rigorous RFP process, we selected ENA because of their proven experience in the K-12 space, the demonstrable value they bring their customers and their superb record of project management,” said Dr. Irving Hamer, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Operations, Technology and Innovation. “ENA’s on-time implementation, along with the above-and-beyond customer service they’ve consistently exemplified every step of the way, continues to surpass our expectations. Through this partnership, we have a world-class, best-practice IT foundation with which to launch critical instructional, professional development and operational solutions. It’s the necessary architecture for improving both student achievement and the bottom line, now and in the future,” Dr. Hamer continued.

“Every student, teacher and administrator in MCS has now at their fingertips high-speed bandwidth of at least 10 megabits and up to one gigabit,” Curtis Timmons, Chief Technology Officer explained. “That’s a

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huge pipeline for securely supporting our data, voice and video. Moreover, ENA is responsible for managing, maintaining and monitoring our end-to-end connectivity. In addition to opening up new horizons of learning and collaboration, MCS can focus our resources on reaching those horizons rather than getting detoured by the technicalities.”

In addition MCS has also procured Gagggle, a leading student e-mail and collaboration tool and netTrekker, an academic Internet search engine engineered specifically for a safe learning environment, for all its students through ENA’s Consortium Program. The program offers some of the world’s best instructional and communication products at bulk-negotiated discount rates. Both these products are examples of the enhanced learning opportunities MCS can make available to its education community through the new IT infrastructure.

“We are pleased with what we’ve accomplished in partnership with Memphis City Schools,” said David M. Pierce, president and CEO of ENA. “They are a district with an energized administration dedicated to bringing 21st century teaching and learning to their classrooms, and we are proud to play a partnership role in that very worthwhile endeavor. We look forward to working with and supporting MCS with these mission-critical technological solutions over the next five years.”

#### **About Education Networks of America (ENA)**

ENA provides managed network and communication services to customers in the education, library and government sectors. Their scalable solutions facilitate collaboration, increase productivity and decrease the cost of information management through the convergence of data, voice and video technologies. ENA currently manages multiple statewide and district-wide education and library networks successfully serving over 5,000 end sites, 560 school districts, 230 libraries, more than 2.5 million students, teachers and administrators and more than 6.2 million librarians and patrons.

ENA has recently been awarded the statewide Internet access and managed network services contract for the Indiana Department of Education E-Rate Consortia, which serves 350 school corporations, and the Indiana State Library Internet Consortium, which serves 220 library locations. Empowered by their networks, ENA’s customers can focus on what matters most: preparing students, strengthening communities and leading enterprises to excel in the 21st century. For more information, please visit [www.ena.com](http://www.ena.com).

#### **About Memphis City Schools**

Memphis City Schools (MCS) is the nation’s 23rd largest school district with more than 105,000 students and is the largest school district in the state of Tennessee. The school district employs more than 16,150 people and is the second largest employer in Shelby County, TN. MCS has 200 schools, in which every classroom is Internet-wired to handle a minimum of at least six computers. With a core belief that 21<sup>st</sup> century success involves proficient use of a wide array of technology, MCS actively pursues an aggressive technology plan to ensure all district facilities are modernized and can accommodate every student. MCS reflects the rich cultural diversity of the West Tennessee community. The district’s major academic indicators have consistently improved over the past several years, positively echoing their motto: “Every Child. Every Day. College Bound.” For more information, please visit [www.mcsk12.net](http://www.mcsk12.net).