

FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Fulton County Schools has completed a large migration from Google to become an entirely Office 365 technology-supported school district



OVERVIEW

In an effort to streamline its vast school district and prepare for future technology deployments and innovation, Fulton County Schools recently completed a 32,000-user migration from Google to the Office 365 platform. The decision to eliminate Google and Chromebooks from its district and become an all-Microsoft 365 district has brought its extensive number of schools and users together under one technology umbrella. As a result, this migration has strengthened Fulton's technology toolbox and advanced security measures for its large student, teacher, and administrative population.

The Education industry has learned a lot over the past year and Fulton County Schools understands the formula for success. Always one step ahead, Fulton continues to prepare, plan, and roadmap activities for a sustainable and consistent technology journey for the betterment of its users and user experience.

Working with expert security and productivity partner, Forsyte I.T. Solutions, Fulton receives richer assessments, technology recommendations, managed services to continue offering advanced technology support.

PROJECT GOALS

- 1** Take Fulton County Schools to 100% Microsoft-based products and eliminate Google and Chromebooks entirely.
- 2** Create a modernized, cohesive, and secure Office 365 infrastructure across the Fulton school district.
- 3** Secure productivity to the entire district, while at the same time, easing the IT burden of managing separate technologies.

ORGANIZATION

Fulton County Schools

Website:
www.fultonschools.org

Location:
Atlanta, Georgia

Industry:
K-12 Education

Implementation:
Google to Office 365 Migration

Size:

- 95,000 Students
- 14,000 Faculty and Staff

"Working with Forsyte provided great customer service, always."

*- Juandalyn Richards
Senior Project Manager,
Fulton County Schools*

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Founded in 1871, Fulton County Schools is one of the oldest and largest school districts in the state of Georgia, supporting 14,000 employees and 95,000 students. Fulton is focused on excellence in educating every student to reach their full learning potential.

CHALLENGE

On its journey for excellence, Fulton recognized the challenge of maintaining contrasting technology platforms and planned with Microsoft Gold Partner, Forsyte I.T. Solutions, to eliminate Google technology and Chromebooks across the district in favor of Office 365 and Windows machines.

“Out of the entire migration process, coordinating the many moving parts of the migration proved somewhat challenging, but the migration itself went a lot easier than was expected. Coordination was something we expected to be a challenge on our part, but the technical piece was quick and efficient,” said Fulton IT Specialist, Anthony Marrero.

SOLUTION

Creating a cohesive, secure Office 365 infrastructure on which to build has been the focus of Fulton County Schools. Since the migration, everyone from students, faculty, and staff relies on the security and productivity focused technology bundle of OneDrive, Teams, and Office 365, with no hybrid users.

Large migrations such as Fulton’s require extensive planning and mapping with expertise built throughout the plan. As long-time technology advisors to Fulton, Forsyte provided the necessary framework and phased migration strategy for success. Fulton focused on migrating shared drives, while letting its users migrate personal drives. This eliminated confusing messaging and allowed for a more seamless transition.

Fulton’s commitment to communication was key to success. Communicating the migration scope provided users with dates and activities, as well as best-practice tips to use the technology. When asked for one piece of advice, Fulton’s IT staff recommends schools “make sure they communicate with end users early and often. Remember that certain users such as principals receive lots of communication, so finding the right communication balance is important.”



IT team saves time monitoring, troubleshooting, & updates.



Teams and users can easily collaborate for improved productivity.



Users can access documents & emails from anywhere, anytime.

BENEFITS

With the migration to all Office 365 technology and Windows machines, Fulton County Schools has maintained secure productivity to its entire district, while at the same time, easing the IT burden of managing separate technologies. Office 365 is inclusive of OneDrive and Teams, so file sharing, collaboration, and communication are seamless and has continue across the district without interruption.

By solely using Office 365, users can work from anywhere and anytime in a way that supports productivity, with secure cloud storage and collaboration features. End users are happy with an improved user experience and the IT team saves time with troubleshooting and updates. It’s a win-win structure for continued success.