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.

“Working with Forsyte provided great customer service, always.”

- Juandalyn Richards
  Senior Project Manager, Fulton County Schools
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.”

**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.