

# Del Valle Schools Expand Student Computing

## With Samsung Cloud Displays

The Del Valle Independent School District (ISD) is located on the periphery of Austin, Texas. With the rapid growth of the region, student enrollment at Del Valle has more than doubled in the past 15 years to over 11,000 students. The school district operates fourteen schools spread over 172 square miles in Eastern Travis County.



### Preparing Students for College and Work

Del Valle's mission is to provide a quality education through innovative programs to engage and prepare students for future college and work careers. Over 87% of the students come from economically disadvantaged households and may not have computer access in the home. So the school district strives to maximize computing access in the classrooms, libraries, and computer labs. The IT department supports about 4,000 end-clients including virtual desktops, laptops, and desktop PCs. "We try to get as much technology into the classrooms as we can for the students and teachers," says Mr. Randy Ryan, Chief Technology Officer, "but the hard part is to keep the computing infrastructure up-to-date in light of tight budgets and growing enrollment." The school district had many computer labs and classrooms with old PCs and laptops that were slow and constantly breaking down.

Faced with the challenges of managing PCs spread across the school district, Mr. Ryan investigated virtual desktops as an alternative to traditional PCs. He turned to technology provider ENet Solutions. "We worked with Del Valle to conduct a proof-of-concept where we compared several virtual desktop options," says Mr. Faisal Bhutto, VP of Operations at ENet Solutions, "and the Samsung Cloud displays were clearly the best solution because of their performance, quality, and ergonomics."

### The Perfect School Computing Solution

Samsung Cloud displays are a whole new class of integrated monitors specially designed for desktop virtualization and cloud computing. They have the thin/zero client technology built right into the monitor, so there is no need for a separate PC or thin/zero-client – just the Cloud display. With Cloud displays, students can log in from any Cloud display and access their authorized applications and data files from a slim, clutter-free and energy-efficient monitor. Del Valle ISD first upgraded all of the computer labs in the school district with Samsung Cloud displays. The response from students, faculty, and IT staff was so positive that they upgraded classrooms and libraries.

#### Profile

**Country:** United States

**Sector:** Education

**Founded:** 1952

#### Challenge

Provide students with school-wide computing access to prepare for future college and work careers

#### Solution

- Samsung SyncMaster Cloud displays (Model NC190 with 19" LCD display)
- Connected to VMware vSphere™ desktop virtualization platform
- Hosted on Cisco UCS servers

#### Impact

- Increased computer density in classrooms and computer labs
- Improved IT productivity
- Provided students with a better learning/computing environment

## Driving a More Efficient IT Support Delivery Model

According to Mr. Ryan, there are several IT-related advantages of deploying Cloud displays:

- **Faster Upgrades:** Upgrading a 30 PC computer lab took several days. “With Samsung Clouds, we can upgrade a classroom during lunch or a lab after school,” says Mr. Ryan.
- **Easier Management:** By centralizing computing on servers in the data center, most management tasks like imaging, backups, virus protection, and inventory management are automated and centralized.
- **Reduced Break/Fix and Service Calls:** Unlike PCs, Cloud displays have no sensitive or moving parts and are less likely to be intentionally or accidentally damaged. “We have never had an issue with the Samsung Clouds – never. It just works,” says Mr. Ryan.
- **Fewer Network Drops:** The NC-series Cloud displays can be daisy-chained together and connected to a single Ethernet jack. For older buildings and classrooms with a limited number of Ethernet outlets, they enable more computing without the need for expensive network drops.

The above advantages of Cloud displays also drive an overall IT productivity advantage since the staff has more time to focus on critical technology initiatives.

## Students and Teachers Love to be “on the Clouds”

As the Cloud displays began to be rolled out, there was genuine enthusiasm from the students and teachers. After all, they were the ones stuck with aging PCs that were slow and constantly breaking down. From their perspective, the Cloud displays provided several important benefits:

- **Higher Computing Density:** The smaller footprint of a Cloud display (no bulky PC tower) allows more computing access points to be added to a classroom, lab or library. This means students don’t have to share a computer or wait for their turn. By providing wider access, teachers are better able to engage all students, not just the ones with the mouse.
- **Improved Student Comfort:** “Our old PCs took up so much space that the kids had no desk space for their books or papers. Now they have so much more space and elbow room,” says Mr. Andrew Zuniga, Technology Instructor at Del Valley High School. “One of the things we noticed with Samsung Clouds is that they are quieter and generate less heat than a big PC,” says Ms. Kathy Collins, a teacher at Del Valle High School.
- **Less Downtime:** “The PCs were slow to boot up and we were always dealing with viruses and broken equipment. Now we never have viruses because when a student logs on to their session with a Samsung Cloud, they have a clean, virus-free computing session every time – it is amazing!” says Mr. Zuniga.

## Cloud Displays: The New Standard for Education Computing

Del Valle ISD is well on its way to transition most of its student computing from old-fashioned PCs to virtual desktops. “The students and staff love the performance of the Cloud devices and our IT staff find them so much easier to manage – it just makes a lot of sense,” says Mr. Ryan. “We have been very happy with our transition and recommend other school districts evaluate them.”

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Andrew Zuniga  
Technology Instructor