

Case Study

Vidyo Conferencing provides major savings for Alexandria Schools



The customer

Alexandria School District 206, Minnesota, comprises nine schools (K-12) and also offers Community Education programs, classes and other learning opportunities for residents of all ages, interests and abilities.

Key goal for 2009/10

- Expanding focused learning opportunities while lowering operational costs

The problems

District 206 had two immediate problems:

- To provide psychiatric and remedial teaching for students, a psychologist was paid to travel from 75 miles from his office in Moorhead to evaluate and work with the students. Costs included travel as well as actual time with the students.
- With a limited number of teachers to deliver classes to small instruction groups, students were bussed to a central location incurring high costs in travel time, liability insurance and bus transportation.

The solution

A Vidyo HD system was employed in both cases. The system uses standard Internet connections as it is based on a standard which compensates for packet loss and latency problems to provide HD television level picture quality.

The psychologist was provided with a DSL line to his home in Moorhead and a laptop equipped with an inexpensive speakerphone and a desktop camera capable of providing HD quality video. He interacts securely and clearly with students in a classroom equipped with a room system from Vidyo.

To solve the small group instruction problem, each school is equipped with a similar room system. The students now conference with the remote teachers in a "Virtual Classroom" setting.

The pay-back

Major ongoing savings in travel, insurance and specialist costs for a small, one-time capital outlay on equipment and low ongoing telecommunication costs. Essentially a fraction of the cost of legacy systems such as those from Polycom and Tandberg but with equivalent performance.