



Connecticut teachers deliver engaging, effective digital learning with LanSchool

In the spring of 2020, district-wide school closures were announced across the US. For cash-strapped school districts like Waterbury, Connecticut, this presented a challenge.

They required a cost-effective, forward-thinking strategy to equip classrooms with the technology they needed, to support a successful remote learning programme.

So, they turned to Lenovo.

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Getting the right devices into the hands of students

At the start of the pandemic, Waterbury had a limited number of computers to go around. Several of their 30 schools had as few as two per building and providing 1:1 learning devices for each one of their 19,000 students just wasn't possible.

But Waterbury Public Schools didn't just require devices. They also needed access to educational software that could keep students engaged while giving teachers control over how the devices were being used.

To meet these needs, Nick Chapman, the Senior Network Specialist on Waterbury's IT team, allocated funding for the purchase of a number of Lenovo Chromebooks. Not only are Chromebooks affordable and user-friendly, but every device comes with a free, one-year LanSchool Air licence.

He rolled out the devices as part of a pilot scheme and was immediately impressed with how straightforward and easy to use the technology was. He could manage everything from a single platform and maintain and update every device on the network remotely.



Rolling out the software was phenomenally easy.

Nick Chapman, Senior Network Specialist, Waterbury Education



One of the first members of staff to take part in the pilot was English teacher Lucille Rivera. Before the rollout, she noticed that the students who were quiet in the physical classroom were engaging even less in a remote setting.

“On Google Meet they were afraid to turn their camera on, afraid to unmute and talk”, she said, “There was no way for me to communicate with them until LanSchool”. Now, they simply send a private message if and when they need help – and they can get the 1:1 support they need.

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Engagement went up from the second we were able to use LanSchool. Now [students] constantly ask me to view their screen to make sure that what they’re doing is on track with my expectations.

Lucille Rivera, English teacher – Seventh Grade



Classroom management made simple

LanSchool Air has transformed Lucille's approach to teaching. With LanSchool, she can be as effective remotely as she is in person, managing multiple classroom activities within one simple platform.

The software gives her complete control of what students see in real-time. She can monitor everyone's device at once, see who's doing what - and who needs extra help.

With the Limit Web functionality, Lucille is able to control what websites pupils can and can't access. Plus, she can activate Blank Screen within seconds, and use a custom message on student screens to refocus attention.

Now that Lucille has experienced the benefits of teaching with LanSchool, she can't imagine being without it - and her students agree. "I don't think our kids could go back," Lucille says, "They rely on it just as much as I do for help. I think there's value on both sides for sure."



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Now that teachers are using LanSchool, they're raving about it. It's transforming their teaching and they don't want to go back.

Mallory Brito, English Language Arts teacher - Sixth Grade

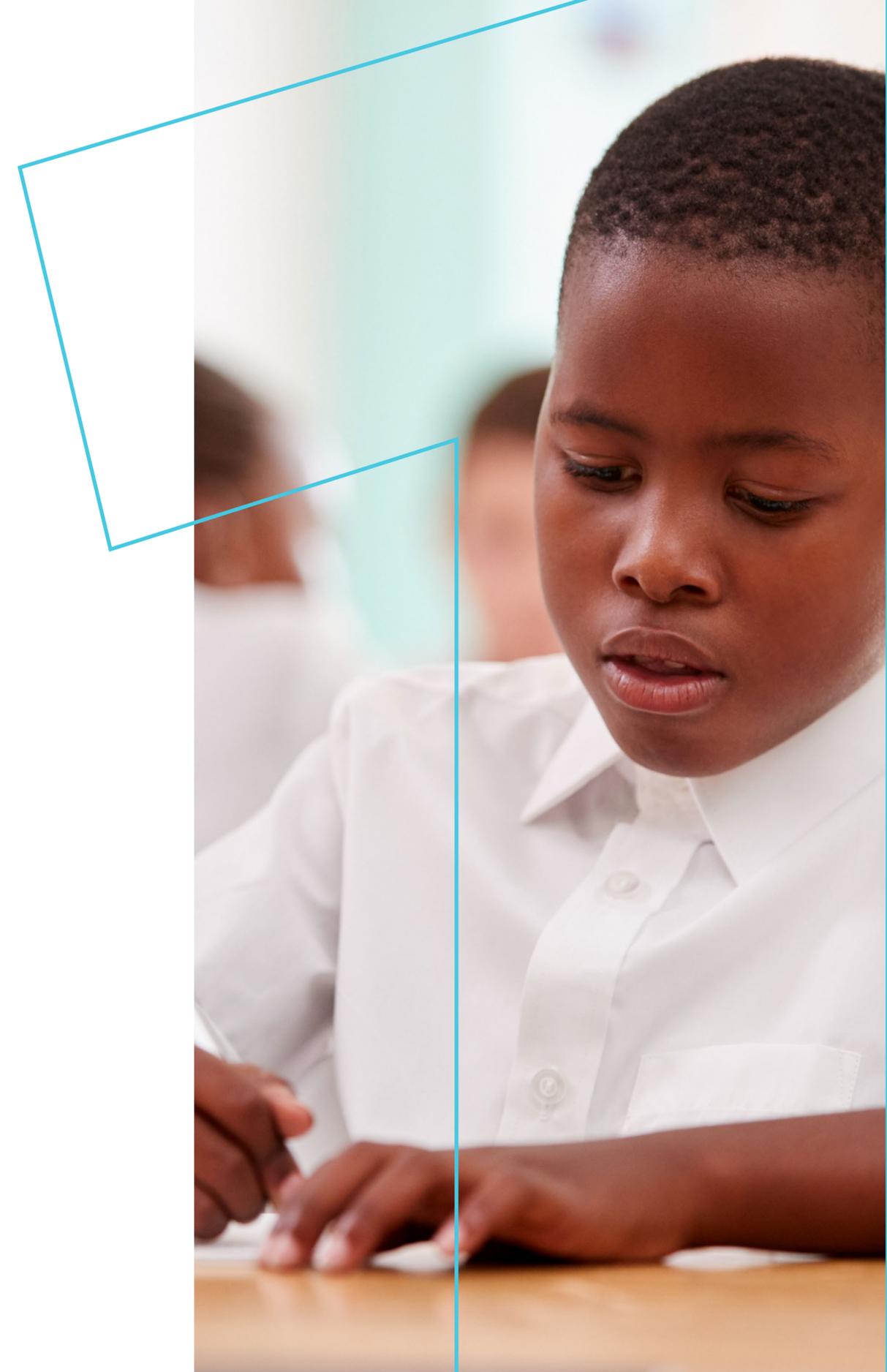


Delivering successful outcomes

Due to the overwhelming success of the pilot programme, Waterbury was able to secure funding for additional Chromebooks. Having the ability to try the software out for a year made it much easier to get buy-in from the board of education.

“It’s hard for us to get funding for software without knowing the merits”, explained Nick Chapman. “And after the success teachers have found with the software, when the free licences expire, I bet the district is going to allocate budget to purchase licences going forward.”

As Waterbury continued to buy devices, they made use of almost 10,000 free LanSchool Air licences across 14 schools. All in all, Nick estimates the bundle offer saved the district around \$20,000 in classroom management software licensing over the last year.





About LanSchool

As a pioneer and innovator of classroom management software, LanSchool helps teachers connect with students to create more meaningful online experiences, both in the classroom and remotely.

Backed by Lenovo and building on 30 years as an EdTech leader, LanSchool helps guide learning, increase collaboration, and maximise teaching time. We've also partnered with best-in-class safety solutions to protect every student, teacher and staff member from cyberattacks.

Waterbury Public Schools use LanSchool Air on 1:1 Lenovo Chromebook devices. For more information on device bundles, to book your free trial, or arrange a 1:1 demo, visit www.lanschool.com.

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