

Transforming collaboration in K-12, secondary, and higher education

As education globalizes and students demand a more interactive experience, schools and universities are innovating to offer more immersive learning than ever.

The last decade has seen major universities — including Harvard University, John Hopkins University, and other world-leading institutions — offer courses and tuition delivered remotely, using communications and collaboration technologies.

In a March 2020 survey of 200 academic leaders from top universities on six continents, over 60% expected established universities to offer degrees in which most or all tuition was delivered remotely, using immersive technologies. ^[1]

Domestically, US students increasingly want an interactive experience that allows for remote learning, either as part of the learning experience or even as the main means of course delivery. Over six million US students now take at least one remote-learning course as part of their school experience, even under normal (pre-COVID-19) conditions. ^[2]

The growth of remote, immersive education isn't just limited to higher education. Already by 2019, nearly 3 million US high-school students were receiving some of their education in this manner ^[3]. Currently over 30 states offer some form of remote or digital learning to even the youngest K-12 students. ^[3]

These trends are only likely to accelerate and even extend into wider adoption by administrative staff and non-teaching faculty in the post-COVID-19 environment.

By March 2020, 35 states had closed their schools, making 35.9 million public-school students reliant on distance-learning for their education. ^[4] Like many countries around the world, the United States is engaged in a huge experiment in technology-enabled distance learning.

Even when schools re-open, it's likely that the most forward-thinking institutions will take what they have learned during the current crisis and put it to good use, offering students from kindergarten to university a broader, more interactive and flexible technology-driven learning experience to compliment classroom teaching. The institutions able to do this well will offer a better experience and better outcomes to their students.

To help ensure that the distance learning offering provides a high-quality experience, schools, colleges, and universities need technologies and platforms which are easy to use, highly reliable, and offer the broadest range of communications and collaboration tools. In this market brief, we look at how Cisco Webex with AT&T can help schools, universities, and other educational institutions give their students and teachers a learning environment that is highly secure, easy to use, and easy to tailor to individual needs.

The benefits of Webex with AT&T

With Webex from AT&T, students, teachers, and administration staff have access to:



Rapid access to tutors with highly secure chat, video, and voice conferencing.



Near-real time problem solving with range of collaboration and sharing tools.



Rich and immersive video for lesson delivery, internal staff meetings, and training.



Team rooms for document sharing, collaborative working, and co-creation.



The ability to integrate with third-party tools and platforms.



Compliance, transparency, and ease of auditing.



Consolidated vendor management with one company and one key contact.



Modernized comms infrastructure without upfront CapEx.

1. Times Higher Education (THE). 2020. Will The Coronavirus Make Online Education Go Viral?. [online] Available at: <<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/will-coronavirus-make-online-education-go-viral>> [Accessed 22 April 2020].
2. Preparationcoursesportal.com. 2020. Why Is Distance Learning So Popular In The United States? - Preparationcoursesportal.Com. [online] Available at: <<https://www.preparationcoursesportal.com/articles/393/why-is-distance-learning-so-popular-in-the-united-states.html>> [Accessed 22 April 2020].
3. Schroeder, B., 2020. Disrupting Education. The Rise Of K-12 Online And The Entrepreneurial Opportunities. [online] Forbes. Available at: <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernhardschroeder/2019/08/14/disrupting-education-the-rise-of-k-12-online-and-the-entrepreneurial-opportunities/#42d330ae48a2>> [Accessed 22 April 2020].
4. vKoh, Y., 2020. U.S. Schools Deploy Remote Learning On Unprecedented Scale. [online] WSJ. Available at: <<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-schools-deploy-remote-learning-on-unprecedented-scale-11584393501>> [Accessed 22 April 2020].



The right communications solution for education

Meeting the needs of educational institutions, Webex with AT&T is a comprehensive communication and collaboration platform that is versatile and easy to use.

It gives schools, colleges, and universities the range and depth of functionality they need to communicate in a highly secure manner in the fullest possible range of contexts — from delivering lessons to holding staff conferences and training.

Webex with AT&T consists of three separate but interlocking solutions:

- **Webex Calling with AT&T:** includes voice calling, instant messaging, chat, email, voicemail, video conferencing, and much more.
- **Webex Meetings with AT&T:** a collaboration suite that includes desktop sharing, webinar and presentation functions, and integrates well with leading third-party software.
- **Webex Teams with AT&T:** this workflow-management solution connects all team members in a shared workspace for teamworking, co-creation, and content sharing.

A recent study found that 65% of teachers already use digital tools every day — but 53% would like to use them more often.

^[5] Research published in 2020 in the journal Science Advances reported that using digital collaboration tools allowed universities to achieve outcomes in STEM teaching comparable to those attained through face-to-face learning, but at a lower cost. ^[6] To reap these benefits while also meeting rising student (and parent) expectations, education providers must develop intelligent and adaptive collaborative cultures that anticipate student needs. The providers that achieve this will be the ones that have the greatest success in improving student outcomes in

the future, even in a potentially constrained financial environment.

Why Webex with AT&T

AT&T is a leader in the field of enterprise collaboration. Our experts have worked with school systems and leading universities throughout the United States, and globally, to implement Webex with AT&T as part of a near-seamless collaboration infrastructure.

Using the collaboration and communications tools the system provides you can:

- Improve student outcomes with tools to make remote lessons personalized and immersive.
- Conduct immersive lessons — one-to-one or one-to-many — with crisp, clear, HD video.
- Assist administration staff to deliver rich and interactive internal training.
- Run study groups using video meetings, group messaging, whiteboarding, and more.
- Distribute assignments, notes, and course materials using file and application sharing.
- Plan and track progress and assignments with shared calendaring and persistent chat.

Webex with AT&T also integrates with leading learning management systems (LMS) including Moodle, Canvas, Sakai, D2L, and Blackboard to name a few. This makes it easy to share data in a highly secure and traceable manner with students and with authorized internal and external colleagues and to do so quickly.

Is Webex with AT&T right for you?

If your educational institution meets any of these criteria, then Webex with AT&T could be right for you:



You are looking for ways to deliver high-quality education, online and remotely, right now.



Your institution is planning for long-term educational resilience.



You are consolidating a multi-vendor communications and collaboration suite.



You need to innovate but also protect legacy technology investments.



You are migrating more IT infrastructure to the cloud.

5. Klein, A., 2020. Digital Learning Tools Are Everywhere, But Gauging Effectiveness Remains Elusive, Survey Shows. [Online] Education Week. Available at: <<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2019/09/18/digital-learning-tools-are-everywhere-but-gauging.html>> [Accessed 22 April 2020].

6. Chirikov, I., Semenova, T., Maloshonok, N., Bettinger, E. and Kizilcec, R., 2020. Online Education Platforms Scale College STEM Instruction With Equivalent Learning Outcomes At Lower Cost. [online] Science Advances. Available at: <<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/15/eaay5324>> [Accessed 22 April 2020].

Building a better student experience

Use case: delivering targeted support to achieve specific outcomes



Mid-terms reveal that a class is performing below its predictions. The university must find a way to give students the help they need, without adding classroom teaching hours.



Lecturers use Webex with AT&T document-sharing tools to make course notes, hand-outs, and other materials instantly available to all students in the class.



Using Webex video conferencing, teachers hold targeted tutorials with groups of students selected because they need help with the topic under discussion.



Lecturers use Webex Multimedia Content Sharing to produce and disseminate short video lectures, designed to aid revision.



Using integration with its LMS, the university records attendance rates for digital tutorials and uptake of other digital assets, to help ensure that students are getting the support they need.

Use case: emergency remote learning for K-12 students



Because of an unplanned school closure, teachers must find a way to deliver education remotely to several hundred pupils for an extended time.



With Webex with AT&T already integrated into school systems, teachers simply contact parents to tell them their child's login details - and online lessons can begin.



Because Webex is designed to work on any platform, including mobile devices, the widest range of children can access it and benefit from its features.



Because Webex is integrated into school systems, teachers can easily access lesson plans and support materials from home then share these with students and colleagues.



Thanks to regular collaboration and information sharing, colleagues are still able to achieve the best possible student outcome.

Teachers can use multimedia capabilities to deliver immersive and inclusive training throughout the institution with consistency and a high level of interactivity.



Students get fast and, near-seamless access to teachers and learning materials, regardless of location. Teachers have access to all the necessary student records.



Teachers and administrators can centralize course and student records, making these easily available to authorized personnel.



How Webex with AT&T can help transform your educational institution

Teachers and students are supported with extensive remote learning tools, training and curricula guides available through [Cisco Education Connector](#).



Students benefit from a range of communications and collaboration tools which are easy to use but also implemented within a controlled online environment.



Collaboration is auditable, highly secure, and transparent, helping to ensure that professional and regulatory standards are met — and can be shown to have been met.



Choose AT&T as your collaboration specialist

AT&T is a leader in communications technology and infrastructure.



AT&T IP Flexible Reach

can reduce your monthly spending through on-net calling.



AT&T Dynamic Traffic Management

improves employee productivity by prioritizing your business applications including Webex with AT&T and QoS for mobile devices.



AT&T VPN

provides outstanding network performance, reliability, and consistency to help ensure highly secure data networks. It provides improved application performance including Webex with AT&T while maintaining network control.



Our experts will help you envision and strategize a UC transformation roadmap. With a track record in delivering

world-class solutions,

AT&T has the capabilities and expertise required to integrate and automate your siloed voice, UC, and collaboration technologies.



The world's largest Cisco Webex deployment; Webex with AT&T deployed to over

400,000 employees worldwide.



Since 2008, AT&T has committed over

\$500 million in programs

to help millions of students in all 50 states and around the world.

Webex with AT&T is your gateway to new standards in team collaboration and innovation.



AT&T Business

Contact AT&T or visit www.att.com/collaboration to discover how Webex with AT&T can help your educational institution.