The School District of Lee County’s Technology Goals:

The School District of Lee County believes that, in a very competitive, digital economy, educational technology is a critical component for providing the tools students need in order to reach their full potential.
Personalized Learning in a Large District
How Lee County Found a Technology Solution that Could Scale

In 2015, the School District of Lee County was presented with a challenge. In order to meet the Florida state mandate to adopt digital textbooks, the district had to find a software solution that could successfully manage thousands of Chromebooks, and still work within their budget constraints.

The Executive Director of Information Technology, Dwayne Alton, attests, “We were looking for something that had a low purchase cost, low total cost of ownership over the life of the device, and that was easy to manage.” At the time, Lee County was the 33rd largest school district in the nation - out of over 13,000 districts- so they needed a solution that was scalable, but could also support their personalized learning goals. With 96 schools, 93,000 students, and 22,000 Chromebooks - this was a daunting task. Even more daunting was the prospect of training the entire school staff on the new technology. As Alton says, “Professional development is always the Achilles' heel with technology implementation in education, and we wanted to make sure that our teachers had a support structure in place, so they weren’t overwhelmed with the change.”

After a thorough search, the school district found a solution that would meet the comprehensive needs of both IT admins and teachers: GoGuardian. GoGuardian was deployed to help teachers more easily manage technology in the classroom which, in turn, saved the district's IT admins time and resources on professional development. GoGuardian’s scalable and reliable cloud infrastructure provided a simple, flexible model that was accessible for teachers, which - with a limited budget and a very large district - was exactly what Lee County needed. As Alton notes, “We only have four professional development school days a year for our teachers and that’s to cover a variety of topics from new curriculum to academic standards to technology tools. We needed to have a tool that the teachers could get up and running very, very quickly with little support and little training.”

With the help of GoGuardian, Lee County was able to successfully execute one of the largest implementations in the country: 20,000 Chromebooks. “What we found is that we were able to implement GoGuardian by only using the training videos that were built right into the application. We literally provided no additional formal professional development on top of that, other than providing our tech support staff with these same videos and visibility over what teachers were using,” explains Alton. The training was built right into the technology.

“GoGuardian allows us to provide much more visibility to school administrators and tech support staff than any other solution we’ve seen. The software enables us to provide the most current, accurate, and easy-to-understand information to our schools.”

Dwayne Alton
Executive Director of Information Technology
The School District of Lee County
THE CHALLENGE

The School District of Lee County in southern Florida was operating one of the largest and most robust instructional technology networks in the nation. When Lee County instituted a “BYOD” policy, where students brought their own devices to school, the lack of uniformity among devices became a technical support nightmare. With a state mandate for digital textbooks, Lee County needed an affordable solution for managing 1:1 technology in all of the district’s 96 schools - and a software that could also support differentiated instruction. Unfortunately, they had limited professional development resources and needed a tool that would allow teachers to get up and running quickly with little support and training. They found a comprehensive solution in GoGuardian.

THE PLAN

Lee County implemented GoGuardian Admin and Teacher to ensure online safety in their schools, engage students with the right digital content, and achieve their larger goal of utilizing technology to differentiate instruction. Through GoGuardian, educators received training with videos that were built right into the application. Lee County did not need any additional professional development or resources to help teachers manage technology in the classroom, saving the district time and money.

THE IMPACT

With the help of GoGuardian, Lee County was able to successfully scale Chromebooks and utilize technology to differentiate instruction in all of its 96 schools. As a result of GoGuardian Teacher, classrooms became more connected, students became more engaged, and instruction more personalized. With GoGuardian Admin, the district could better serve the needs of the “whole child”: including their physical, social, and emotional needs. Alton pointed out, “GoGuardian Admin doesn’t just monitor for the stuff that students are trying to access that’s inappropriate, but it also monitors for students that are in distress. We have been able to reach out to those students and help them because we saw activity in GoGuardian that indicated the students were in distress. We've had multiple interventions this year and have been able to help students that were in dire need.”

“Prior to GoGuardian, we were using another product. Teachers could not rely on that product because they didn’t feel they had the safety net that was catching the things that they couldn’t catch on Chromebooks. We implemented GoGuardian, and what we noticed was: our overall implementation of Chromebooks improved.”

Rob Stratton
Instructional Technology Coordinator
The School District of Lee County

Write Your Own Success Story

For more information on how GoGuardian can help your district achieve better learning through technology, contact us today for a customized product demo and free trial access:
info@goguardian.com

Time spent off-task: <1%
Time spent on YouTube: 8%
Time spent on G-Suite: 25%

*Data is based on the 2017–18 school year as of 10/24/2017.
Visit [goguardian.com/stories](http://goguardian.com/stories) to see additional customer success stories
Smart technology needs smart management.

As more schools implement technology programs—either through 1:1 initiatives or shared carts—the need for powerful, easy-to-use device management tools is greater than ever. From device assignment and repair tracking to web filtering and classroom management, many districts often end up using a patchwork of tools and apps to accomplish their strategic technology goals.

With a full suite of position-tailored products designed and built just for Chromebooks, GoGuardian makes it easy for school districts to manage large or small device deployments, keep their students safer online, and gain valuable insights into how their technology programs are working.

Our education technology partners:

About GoGuardian

Based in Los Angeles, GoGuardian is a leader in Chromebook management solutions for K-12 school districts. GoGuardian products are used by 44,000+ educators in all fifty states, impacting millions of students and teachers every day as they use the Internet for collaboration and learning.

Learn More

Visit goguardian.com or call us at 888-310-0410 to start your free trial today.