



## Mason City School District

### High Honors in Desktop Management

Twenty-five miles northeast of Cincinnati, located in the city of Mason, Ohio and parts of the Deerfield Township, the Mason City School District has earned an “excellent” rating for six consecutive years on the Ohio Report Card for public school districts in the state. In addition to its consistent excellent rating, Mason ranks seventh out of 613 districts in the state for overall student test scores, four of its six schools boast national Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence awards, and it is one of Ohio’s fastest growing districts.

With all of these achievements, Mason manages to spend \$385 dollars less per pupil than the state average and \$1,639 per pupil less than the average of the top six districts. Mason attributes much of its success to its ability to harness a variety of technology solutions, including LANDesk® Management Suite, which enables its pursuit of individualized instruction, as well as delivering annual savings of \$10,000 in energy costs and \$144,000 in manpower costs.

#### Annual Individualized Instruction

Instead of following a classical school model of “pulling” student data from its student information system, Mason City Schools employs a student-focused methodology that “pushes” instructional, demographic, special needs, grade and assessment information to applications accessible by teachers and parents. Part of this methodology requires the IT group at Mason to push different applications out to its 3,800 PCs that fit the unique needs of individual classrooms and labs. The instructional software used by Mason has been chosen for its value and ability to help its schools continue improve student achievement.

“As our teachers determine that students need help in specific areas, they ask us to deploy on a periodic basis certain educational software that enables them to focus on those specific needs,” says David Hickey, chief information officer at Mason City Schools. “In the past we were unable to deploy this individualized PC instruction software during the school year. We had to wait until summer break to image labs and classroom desktops with specific software designed to meet the individual instructional needs of our students. With LANDesk Management Suite we can now deliver that software overnight.”

#### Business Needs

- Quickly push out different software applications to 3,800 PCs, enabling teachers to deliver individualized instruction within their respective classrooms.
- Improve overall management and support of all PCs in the school district.

#### Solution

- LANDesk® Management Suite

#### Business Benefits

- Reduced deployment time from several weeks to overnight, which enabled applications to be pushed to PCs throughout the year instead of waiting until summer break.
- Improved the administrator-to-PC support ratio from 1:250 to 1:700, saving \$144,000 a year in costs associated with two full-time positions.
- Saved \$10,000 in power consumption costs by being able to automatically shut down all PCs overnight.
- Reduced overall downtime and support costs by providing faster PC problem resolution.

Not only has Mason been able to reduce the time it takes to push applications out to its PCs from several weeks to overnight, it has been able to significantly improve its administrator-to-PC support ratio. “LANDesk® Management Suite allows us to employ fewer people to support more PCs,” Hickey says. “Our admin-to-PC support ratio used to be 1 to 250. Now with LANDesk it’s 1 to 700. That’s allowed us to save two full-time positions at an annual savings of \$144,000.”

Another way that LANDesk Management Suite has helped Mason City School District save money is in the area of power consumption. It uses the solution to automatically power-down all the PCs overnight. The district estimates it realizes a savings of \$10,000 a year in energy costs from this practice alone.

### Tracking Growth and Movement

As one of the fastest growing school districts in the state of Ohio, there’s a lot of movement of people within the Mason City School District. All that movement and growth can make it difficult to keep track of the district’s technology assets. “The software and hardware inventory capabilities in LANDesk® Management Suite are extremely valuable to us,” Hickey says. “Even with all the movement we have in the district, it enables us to manage our inventory so that we know exactly where PCs are and what software has been loaded on them.”

### Training and Troubleshooting

In addition to simplifying inventory management and enabling Mason to achieve its goal of individualized instruction, LANDesk® Management Suite also empowers the school district to manage all of its dispersed PCs more easily and efficiently.

“LANDesk Management Suite has really reduced our problem solving time and associated costs,” Hickey says. “When we’d get calls from teachers or staff members experiencing problems with their PCs or software, we used to have to physically visit their school or office to resolve it. Now, we can generally respond in less than two hours and have the problem fixed. There are even times when a teacher might call with a problem during that 10-minute period between class times and our people can quickly remote that machine, find out what’s wrong and take care of it. Without LANDesk we would be like many other school districts that might have systems down for days and weeks because they just don’t have the capability to quickly and effectively troubleshoot problems.”

“It’s hard to put a dollar value on what LANDesk Management Suite has done for us, but it’s huge,” says Hickey. He concludes, “In a school system you’re dealing with human capital. So whenever you can reduce the time it takes to get somebody doing what they need to do versus having to spend more time doing mechanical things or dealing with downtime, it equates to having more time for teachers and students in the classroom. That’s where LANDesk has been valuable, it allows our teachers to spend more time with students to provide a higher quality of education and improve student achievement levels.”



*“Mason manages to spend \$385 dollars less per pupil than the state average and \$1,639 per pupil less than the average of the top six districts, and a significant part of this is in thanks to using LANDesk® Management Suite.”*

— David W. Hickey  
Chief Information Officer  
Mason City Schools