Promethean | Case Study

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD,
Houston, TX

Promethean's Solutions Build an Immersive Learning Environment

By using ActivPanel and ClassFlow, the district is now able to engage all students.

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Challenge

The large and growing district was looking for a hardware and software solution that would turn its classrooms into immersive, 21st-century learning environments where all students would be engaged in learning.

Solution

Promethean's Interactive Displays and ClassFlow Software

Benefits

• The ActivPanel's multi-touch function allows students and teachers to collaborate in real-time

• ClassFlow seamlessly connects students' devices to the ActivPanel

• Professional Development team offers assistance throughout district-wide ActivPanel roll-out

Institution

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (ISD) is the third-largest district in Texas, covering 186 square miles and serving more than 115,000 students. The Houston district currently includes 11 high schools, 18 middle schools, and 54 elementary schools and five special campuses—and continues to add about 1,000 students a year.

Situation

To provide this growing community with the technology it needed to prepare students for today's higher education and workforce, the community voted overwhelmingly in favor of a $1.2 billion bond to help update the district's classrooms in 2014.

According to Becky Cook, the director of instructional technology at Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, more than $127 million of the funds from the bond were earmarked for instructional technology, which included interactive panels. During a four-week evaluation, a committee of teachers, curriculum staff, and technical staff conducted an extensive hands-on review with each panel and corresponding software. The opportunity allowed committee members to review the different panels in the context of their subject areas and classroom needs.

Interactive Solutions

Promethean's ActivPanel was the committee's first choice. According to Cook, there were four reasons on why the ActivPanel was a clear choice for the district:

1) High-Quality Panel: The panel has a large, clear, and sharp screen that does not have diffused light like one would find in a projector-based board. The surface is ultra-smooth and frictionless when a user drags his/her finger across the surface.

2) Multi-Touch Capabilities: The ActivPanel allows up to 10 students to use the panel simultaneously. This capability opens a range of possibilities for students and teachers to collaborate in real-time.

3) Collaborative Software: ClassFlow, a cloud-based lesson delivery software, allows teachers to send lessons to students' devices and encourage student collaboration.

4) Professional Development: The district was impressed with Promethean's Professional Development team's expertise during the ActivPanel demonstration. The team has continued to provide support as they roll-out the panels district-wide.

Student Engagement

By using ActivPanel and ClassFlow, the district is now able to engage all students. For example, students can now collaborate to solve problems, and then have conversations about which solution is more efficient. According to Cook, students have embraced the new technology, and the interactive panel and software combination has had a clear, positive impact on teaching and learning. "Kids love being able to go up and touch the board, and they love that more than one student can touch the board at the same time," said Cook.