



SUCCESS STORY
Education



LINN BENTON LINCOLN | PROBLEM SOLVED

The Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District uses digital optimization to execute its mission—to provide equitable, flexible, and effective educational services through economies of scale, enabling every student, regardless of his or her district’s economic status, to succeed.

Reaching and Teaching Every Student Through Digital Transformation

Oregon’s Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District (LBL) provides high-quality educational services and programs to more than 89 schools with approximately 37,000 students in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. Supporting school districts that range in size from 800 students to 8,000 students, LBL is challenged to keep its offerings practical, reliable, and economical. To meet this goal, while delivering solutions that enable all students—regardless of the prosperity of their district—to receive a quality education, LBL relies on technology.

Another NetApp solution delivered by:



Effectively and equitably manages data that increased

4x

over three years

Supports efficient educational services across

26 component

school districts

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“As a result of our digital transformation, enabled by the flexible data management infrastructure from NetApp, teachers and staff have improved their efficiency—and we’ve lowered our costs—leaving us more time and money to support our students. Better still, our students now benefit from more personalized attention that gives them the knowledge and skills they need to ultimately achieve their dreams.”

Brian Berkley
Systems engineer, Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District

LBL is one of 19 Education Service Districts throughout Oregon tasked with supporting the state’s education goals by providing fair educational opportunities for all public school students. Different from school districts, service districts are unique to Oregon and Washington states, helping moderate education costs by coordinating services across schools in a particular region. Pooling resources gives all schools in a service district access to services and programs that might otherwise be too costly for a single school.

LBL has transformed its digital offerings in order to fulfill the education service district’s mission of providing equitable, flexible, and effective educational services through economies of scale by increasing the number of educational offerings online. This augments classroom instruction and streamlines critical school operations.

Centralizing student performance data enables the schools to improve assessments, develop individualized learning plans, and enhance communication, helping students

achieve more. Business and classroom software enables teachers and staff to operate more efficiently, compensating for staff and resource cuts due to underfunding.

As digital transformation proliferates, districts are challenged with managing expanding data volumes while keeping information available 24/7, all without breaking the bank. Over the past three years, for example, the data from one LBL school district’s gradebook application quadrupled in size from 8GB to 32GB.

“Our gradebook app contains student grades, files, parent notes, and pictures—everything is scanned and uploaded. A teacher can go into the app to find a student and see any related files. This offers information about the students, like if there are medical directives for allergies,” says Brian Berkley, systems engineer at LBL. “Our schools have a lot of data record-keeping requirements that other districts don’t have. We needed to modernize our data storage to keep up with growing demand.”

THE DIGITAL JOURNEY EMPOWERS TEACHERS, HELPS STUDENTS

LBL turned to NetApp to build a flexible, scalable infrastructure that could better manage growing data volumes and support the digital transformation. The NetApp AFF solution at the heart of the infrastructure provides faster performance, which allows time-strapped teachers to maximize efficiency and complete administrative tasks more quickly. And reliable, high-performance data management gives teachers more time to spend planning coursework and working in-person with students in the classroom. For example, an efficiently operating Student Information Suite (SIS), which automates online state reporting to the Oregon Department of Education, removes hours of administrative tasks from teachers’ schedules.

With NetApp AFF, LBL can spin up new virtual machines to respond to requests, clone existing virtual machines and data logical unit numbers for testing upgrades, and minimize the impact a planned outage

has on customers. NetApp AFF also allows the education service district to have multiple data protection jobs with integrated snapshots, utilizing Veeam Backup & Replication to expedite daily backups.

With fast, always-available access to student data, teachers can create more personalized teaching strategies, more easily monitor student progress, and better communicate progress to students, parents, and administrators.

LBL makes it possible for each of the school districts to leverage data for apps and other digital solutions more efficiently and cost effectively than they could do on their own. "School districts are always battling funding—how much money gets spent per student," says Berkley. "We provide effective services to manage data and enable digitalization, and we do it in a way that's also affordable, through economies of scale."

MORE EFFICIENT TEACHERS ARE MORE EFFECTIVE WITH STUDENTS

Improving overall school operational efficiency by streamlining logistics, business operations, human resources, and course scheduling enables the districts to redirect time and budgets to programs and activities that directly support student achievement.

Using the NetApp All Flash solution, LBL can affordably store all the data it needs to support digitalization. This in turn enables the school districts to redirect funds saved to teachers, facilities, books, supplies, and additional technology. To further reduce costs for shared applications, LBL also deploys a 100% virtualized VMware environment with network storage consolidated on NetApp. In addition, running its VMware on NetApp eliminates a single point of failure, so that if an outage were ever to occur, IT can roll back the system to minimize operational interruptions.

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SOLUTION COMPONENTS

NETAPP PRODUCTS

AFF A300

FAS 2650

ONTAP 9.3P2

SnapManager Suite for SQL and Exchange

Virtual Storage Console

PARTNER

Structured

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