Prosper Independent School District Leverages Acer Chromebooks to Keep Up with Rapid Growth
2017 and 2018 school years

During a time of tremendous expansion, the Prosper Independent School District (ISD) has standardized Acer Chromebooks, since they are durable, easy to deploy and manage, and increase student engagement.

Prosper ISD has approximately 14,500 students, after enrolling nearly 2,000 new students in the 2018-2019 school year. Plus, the district anticipates an additional 2,000 students will enroll next year. To keep up with this rapid influx of new students, the district recently completed construction of two new schools in the summer of 2018 and plans to have two or three additional school sites completed next summer followed by additional schools for the next several years.

To ensure students’ access to technology is maintained during this time, the district chose the Acer C732T to add to the school’s inventory of existing Chromebooks, which include the Acer C740, C731 and C738. The Acer Chromebooks are being used at the district’s elementary, middle and high school locations by all subjects taught.

In a learning model that Fernando De Velasco, Chief Technology Officer for the Prosper ISD, calls a “1:1 cart” environment, the school has deployed Acer Chromebooks on carts dedicated to each classroom for use by students specifically in that class.

De Velasco stated, “It’s a different approach to a traditional 1:1 program. By having a cart dedicated to the classroom, the school is assured there will always be Chromebooks available for the students. When students take them home, they can be forgotten, not charged and sometimes damaged. By having a dedicated cart in each classroom, learning never stops because of tech issues.”

The Acer Chromebook’s cost, durability, and ability to be easily deployed and managed were key factors in the school instituting the 1:1 cart program. De Velasco said, “It wouldn’t have been such a success if not for the Acer Chromebooks’ cost and availability. New models can be quickly and easily added into the Chromebook inventory for student use. Plus, the IT department has the opportunity to make changes to them quickly and easily via the Chrome Management console.”

De Velasco pointed out that in order to ensure there are enough Acer Chromebooks in each classroom for every student, some classrooms will have a few more Chromebooks than needed for certain class periods. However, De Velasco states that no one can put a value on student learning: “If having a few extra Chromebooks around ensures that students will always be guaranteed access, then that’s an investment we’re willing to make.”

Prosper ISD chose the new Acer C732 Chromebooks for their robust and durable design, warranty, and school budget-oriented cost. In addition, De Velasco appreciated
that they could be easily repaired whether under warranty or with parts by the school’s technicians on site, and continue working like new. De Velasco commented, “I cannot ensure that there will never be an accident, drop, or other unforeseeable situation, but I can be assured that we can most often fix any issue with these Chromebooks from Acer.”

When damages do occur, the school does on-site repairs and even has students involved in the on-site repair programs, which expands their IT knowledge while providing a much-needed service to the student body.

Patrick O’Neil, Director of Institutional Media for Prosper ISD, has seen the impact of Acer Chromebooks on students in classroom settings. He stated, “The Acer Chromebooks carts caused engagement to skyrocket. Very rarely do we see students not on task when they are using their Chromebooks. The Chromebooks help ensure that students are paying attention, and our 1:1 cart model ensures that every student always has access to a device.”

O’Neil believes that the Acer C732’s touch display contributed to student engagement. The students use the Acer Chromebooks for collaboration on class projects, GSuite, quizzes, tests and more.

O’Neil added that the C732’s durability has benefitted Prosper ISD schools as well, “I still see students picking up their Chromebooks by the display. This concerns me, but not as much now that I know how rugged they are and how little damage is typically done to them at school.”

In addition, De Velasco commended Acer support, saying, “Acer is a valued partner in meeting our schools’ technology. Support from Acer has always been great.”