

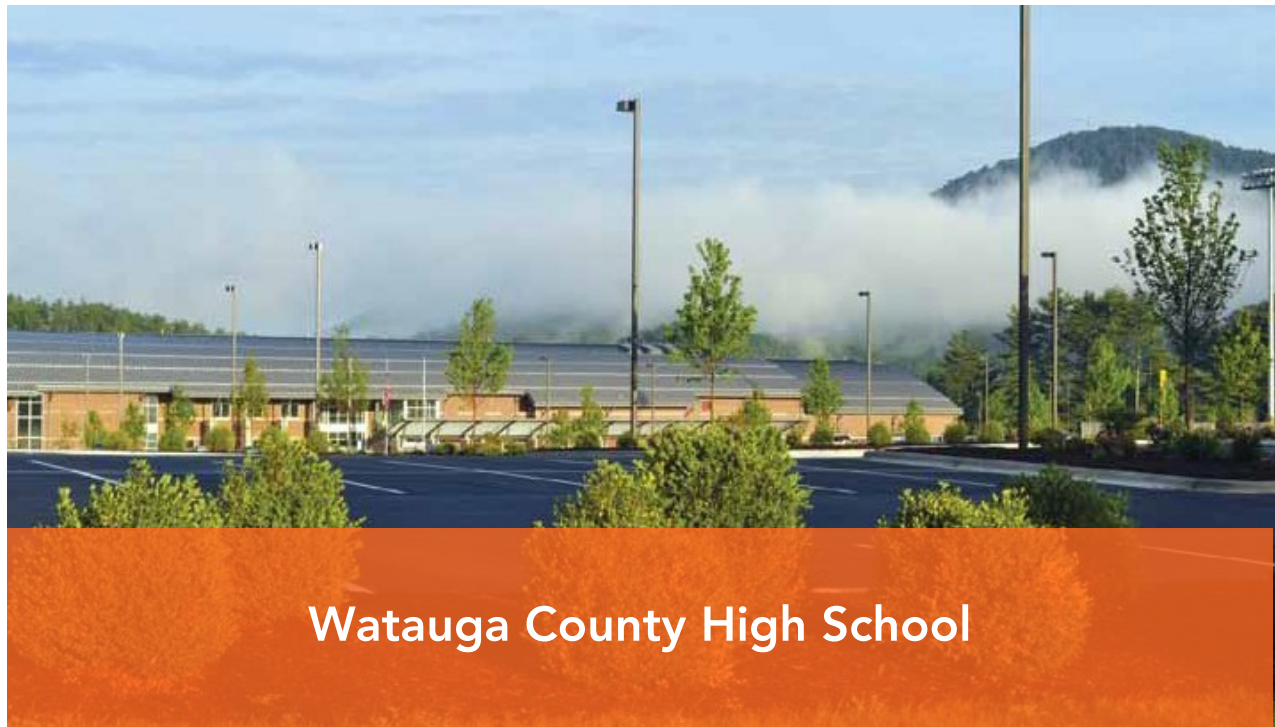
Watauga County Schools

Enhancing Education Through Technology

This past year, SkyLine/SkyBest was proud to work with Watauga County Schools to bring all nine of its schools and central office under one Wide Area Network (WAN). If you're not familiar with a WAN, it's a computer network that connects Local Area Networks (LANs) together, so that users and computers in one location can communicate with users and computers in other locations.

Simplification and Speed

Prior to this WAN upgrade, Watauga County Schools had a fiber network but was working with two different vendors to keep everything connected. Brent Keith, Outside Sales Executive at SkyLine/ SkyBest, notes, "Now the entire school system has one vendor to work with for WAN connectivity and this will simplify troubleshooting efforts if a service issue ever arises. The schools have gained the ability to get an immediate response and the personal attention of our top-level engineers and network staff. And with the cutover to the SkyBest Metro Ether-net Network, the school system upgraded its speed to full Gigabit connectivity for all nine schools."



Watauga County High School

Dr. Scarlet Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Watauga County Schools, appreciates the increased speed provided by SkyLine/ SkyBest. Says Dr. Davis, "With the change in service, our school system has upgraded the symmetrical WAN speed to 1 Gbps— a generous gain from what we previously had. This allows our schools to take advantage of centralized resources, such as digital video and instructional Web-based tools as well as lesson plans and unique video libraries that reside at individual schools."

In addition to this increased speed, the SkyLine/SkyBest WAN provides Watauga County Schools with a higher level of reliability as well as access to our other solutions such as SkyBest TV and telephone service. The improved WAN architecture also enables Watauga County Schools to provide broadband access through a single point of entry, allowing the school system to gauge bandwidth use and control content at all nine schools.



Dr. Marty Hemric, Dr. Scarlet Davis, and Brent Keith

Successful Collaboration

Says Keith, "When Watauga County Schools decided to work with SkyLine/ SkyBest for all of its WAN Metro services, a change was needed to help the IT/Network staff be able to easily manage the vast amount of resources for which they are responsible. After collaborating on a solution to this challenge, we decided the best route would be to move the "hub" from its existing location at the Watauga County Schools' Central Office to the New Watauga County High School, since that is where the majority of its network resources are needed and used."

SkyLine/SkyBest continues to be a very integral partner in the enhancement of teaching and learning in the Watauga County Schools."

- Dr. Marty T. Hemric, Superintendent, Watauga County Schools

Dr. Marty T. Hemric, Superintendent of Watauga County Schools, was delighted by the collaboration's results. He says, "The time commitment and sincerity demonstrated by SkyLine/SkyBest employees represents their willingness to learn about the vision of our system. The collaborative planning for our service upgrades with the Metro-E broadband design has aligned our data capacity with our vision, and improved infrastructure to support our efforts to provide a state-of-the-art, 21st century education for our youth. SkyLine/SkyBest continues to be a very integral partner in the enhancement of teaching and learning in the Watauga County Schools."

Adds Dr. Davis, "We are very excited about the recent expansion of our partnership with SkyLine/SkyBest, and we look forward to growing with them in the future."

