

Dropbox for Business helps the LAUSD instruction office with workplace demands

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is the second largest district in the nation, with more than 640,000 students enrolled in its K-12 schools. LAUSD's steadfast faculty and staff are not only dedicated to preparing students for college—they're continually strengthening graduation rates, exit exam pass rates, and growth on the Academic Performance Index.



It's Elementary

Successfully running a school district requires education professionals to stay in perpetual motion. In addition to addressing the needs of students, district employees must tackle grant projects, governmental programs, faculty and staff training, and much more. Keeping up with all the moving parts can be a challenge, particularly when many staff members are involved in more than one initiative.

Gerardo Loera, the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Los Angeles Unified School District, has experienced these challenges firsthand. Before accepting his current position, Loera worked as a school principal and struggled to find solutions that properly supported collaboration and project management within his school. Although most of the school's administrators and teachers were using email to connect with one another and share documents, Loera says it wasn't an efficient way to operate. "Email is really difficult to manage. It causes people to lose track of that single version of the truth," he adds.

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To combat scattered files and processes, Loera began exploring cloud-based sharing and storage solutions. He wanted an application that would give his staff better control over file versions, while also providing device-agnostic, "anytime" access to files. When he came across Dropbox, he says he found a "polished product with a seamless interface that's intuitive and reliable." He and a number of his coworkers opened accounts immediately.

When Loera made the move to the district's main office, he discovered that staffers there were also using Dropbox to store and share important files. Once the group learned there was an additional Dropbox solution with expanded features built for organizations, they knew it might be an even

Organization: Los Angeles Unified School District

Requirements

- Ability to retrieve deleted files
- Real-time access, not tied to one device
- A more efficient way to collaborate

Solution: Dropbox for Business

Results

- Better organization of active project files
- Streamlined internal and external sharing
- Increase responsiveness among staff members

better fit for their needs. They adopted Dropbox for Business with the intention of improving inefficient processes, streamlining workflows and building an even more collaborative culture.

Show and Tell

With a massive student body and a weighty list of responsibilities, LA Unified School District doesn't see too many quiet days. Staff members need to always be on their toes and Dropbox for Business helps them keep track of all of their active projects. "Our office of instruction is pretty big for a school district," Loera explains. "Dropbox for Business has allowed us to work together more quickly and efficiently."

Collecting budget proposals is one task LAUSD regularly tackles using Dropbox for Business. Schools across the district submit relevant files into a shared Dropbox folder, allowing decision-makers to easily review the proposals. In one instance, when the district was developing a \$20 million plan to better accommodate students with disabilities, it used Dropbox for Business as a central repository for all the tactical elements. "Everything that went into our plan was created in a Dropbox shared folder," says Loera.

During a re-evaluation of K-12 assessment tests, the district used Dropbox for Business to consolidate all of the vendor information and documentation it received in response to its request for information (RFI). According to Loera, "Having Dropbox for Business in place meant that everyone in our office could access, review, and comment on the RFI submissions. It became much easier to determine our next steps."

Dropbox has also been used to house training materials for LAUSD guidance counselors. With shared folders, all of the appropriate individuals can have access to the information they need, whenever they need it.

Sharing outside of the organization is also done through Dropbox for Business. As a member of the Council of the Great City Schools, LAUSD works with other urban school

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districts across the nation to advance the standards set forth for educational excellence. With Dropbox, LAUSD is able to easily exchange information with the Council as they develop new instructional strategies.

Demonstrating Proficiency

The addition of Dropbox for Business to LAUSD's Instruction office has not only helped with day-to-day project management and workflows, it has allowed administrators and educators to be more responsive when challenges arise. In the past, it was easy for file versions to get mixed up or misplaced. But with Dropbox keeping all of LAUSD's important information centralized, accessible, and instantly backed-up, staff members no longer have to worry about file version confusion or accidental deletions.

Employees also have the added assurance that they can retrieve their files on the fly, from any connected device. "When I'm working remotely and someone needs a file, Dropbox lets me get it and share it quickly. Being able to respond immediately and move on with the rest of my day is invaluable," says Loera. Whether Loera and his colleagues are in the office or on the go, Dropbox for Business helps them keep pace with the ever-changing demands of education.

About Dropbox

Dropbox lets you bring your docs, photos, and videos anywhere and share them easily. Keep files up-to-date across multiple devices and stay in sync with your team—effortlessly. Dropbox for Business also offers administrative tools, phone support, and as much space as you need.

To learn more about what Dropbox for Business can do for your organization, please visit www.dropbox.com/business or email us at sales@dropbox.com.