



Compton Unified School District E-Rate Projects Case Study

Quality

The Compton Unified School District is comprised of 33 school sites including three high schools. The district was in line to receive a Federal grant (E-Rate) that would fund the provision of internet access to all classrooms in the 33 schools within the district. Compton Unified School District engaged an Information Technology company to act as a general contractor, and implement the installation of the voice and data infrastructure (cable plant). The district funded the projects while still hoping for the approval of the grant that may potentially fund up to 90% of the overall costs. The installation began in 1997, with great speed. A total of 18 school sites were trenched and underground conduit was provided for fiber optic and copper cabling. Two high schools were completely cabled for voice, data, and multisystems (alarms and paging).

Service

Dedication

Integrity

By spring 1998, the Information Technology Department (ITD) of the district attempted to deploy computers to the classrooms in one of the high schools, only to discover that the cable installation had been substandard. Additional investigation uncovered numerous deficiencies in the installation and a completely inadequate design. The district was faced with roughly \$11 million dollars in damages.

Value

In May 1998 our team was subcontracted to provide Engineering services and project management for the rework of all 18 sites. Our team established a communication plan, identified the applicable engineering standards, and setup a checks and balances system whereby accountability was established by an ongoing design review and signoff process. Within the first two months, our team surveyed every site, and identified all design and installation deficiencies. A rework plan was submitted to the district along with new design plans and calculations. Our team collaborated with district personnel to develop new specifications that are closely tied to the appropriate engineering standards.

The district personnel approved the new designs and cleared our team to proceed with the rework. All 18 sites were completely retrenched, new conduit added, new optical fiber and copper cabling pulled and properly terminated, and new active hardware installed. The rework was completed within two months, exceeding all expectations of quality, safety, and with record speed. This undertaking required the coordination of several subcontracting firms, from various trades, with crew sizes as high as 120 persons.

Upon completion of the rework, district personnel participated in functional testing of a random sample of data ports to ensure that internet access was established. The district approved all 18 sites.

This case study illustrates how even in the face of huge liabilities and a nonfunctional system; proper engineering, strong project management, and collaboration with the client were essential tools that achieved positive results.

Strategic Business Resources, Inc.

P.O. Box 1952, Orange, CA 92856
714-538-5320 / FAX 714-538-5457 / www.sbrits.com