

# Sunnyvale School District switches to OpenDNS Enterprise to Achieve CIPA Requirements While Reducing Daily Management Burden

*Providing a safer more secure Internet for a school district in the heart of Silicon Valley*



The Sunnyvale School District is located in the northwestern section of Santa Clara Valley in the heart of Silicon Valley. The district operates two pre-schools, two middle schools and eight K-5 schools, with a combined student, teacher and staff population of more than 7,000.

## The Challenge

**Finding an alternative to the hardware based approach for meeting CIPA with limited IT staff resources**

Bruce Selzler, Sunnyvale School District's Manager of Instructional Technology and Student Information, had a dilemma on his hands. In order to be CIPA compliant the school district had been relying on an old M86 appliance for web content filtering. In the past year the appliance was slowly deteriorating, as it required the IT staff to constantly restart it. Since their M86 contract was expiring, Selzler decided to take the opportunity to look for a cloud-based solution that would provide CIPA compliance while reducing the management and maintenance burden required from their limited four person IT group.

## The Solution

**Cloud based web filtering deployed and managed effortlessly**

Selzler evaluated a number of potential solutions for performance and ease of deployment and management across their 2000+ district computers plus a large number of mobile devices brought in daily by students and staff. Appliances or client-based solutions were quickly eliminated as the time and effort required to manage them with a small staff was a non-starter. While Selzler and his team fiddled with other cloud solutions for weeks on end to get them up and running on a trial, it took less than one and a half hours to deploy OpenDNS Enterprise. "The difference in deployment time and ease of set-up between OpenDNS and other solutions we evaluated was staggering," says Selzler. "My colleague and I had to look at each other in disbelief when we were done setting OpenDNS up – it was that easy."

## The Benefits

**A safer faster Internet without the costs and ongoing management burden**

Deploying OpenDNS has not only saved the school district the upfront costs of a new appliance but also countless IT hours needed to set-up and maintain the box. In addition, OpenDNS's malware site and botnet protection has been a tremendous help to an already stretched staff. Before deploying OpenDNS Enterprise, Selzler spent countless hours dealing with complaints about slow computers and networks that were infected with malware and botnet activity. Now with OpenDNS Enterprise malware and botnet activity has been stopped at the DNS level and the number of complaints has been significantly reduced. "We love the malware reports. We now have evidence of which dangerous sites are being blocked and how OpenDNS is helping us prevent malware from infecting our computers and network. I recommend OpenDNS Enterprise without hesitation."

### Organization Snapshot

**Location:**  
Sunnyvale, CA

**Number of students:**  
6,700+

**Number of schools:**  
10

**Using OpenDNS for:**  
Web Filtering, Malware Protection,  
CIPA Compliance

### What They're Saying

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– **Bruce Selzler**  
District Manager of  
Instructional Technology

