



***Case Study: Uniprise Puts Frisco  
ISD At The Head Of The Class***



As the areas around Dallas, Texas, continue to develop, one town in this region, Frisco, has experienced significant growth. The Frisco Independent School District (FISD) has grown by 20-30 percent annually throughout the past nine years, making it one of the fastest growing school districts in the country. Student enrollment was at 20,215 as of the last day of school in 2006 with more than 24,000 students expected in 2007.

With this increased enrollment comes the responsibility to manage the growth and to build for the future. Since 1995, when it comprised only four schools, the district has added 22 new schools – averaging two to six schools annually. In addition, FISD places a large emphasis on using computers in the classroom as part of the curriculum. Computer labs are located in every school, and FISD has a ratio of three computers to every student. Projectors have replaced television monitors in the classrooms, enabling teachers to utilize the computer, the Internet and video streaming for teaching enhancement.

In order to support these applications in its new schools, FISD needed to find a sturdy, dependable cabling solution that could keep up with the district's growth utilizing a limited amount of public funds. FISD put out bids for its cabling needs, and long-time partner DataTex answered. DataTex has already won the business on six of FISD's schools with its recommendation of CommScope's end-to-end Uniprise solution, which included the 5504M plenum cabling and the Triathlon® fiber optic cabling.

"FISD had a lot of unique requirements," Michael Barker, President and CEO for DataTex, said. "They rely on public funds, so they have a restricted budget, but they don't want to sacrifice the quality that teachers and students rely on. In addition to all

of that, they also needed someone who could really support them. Students and faculty rely on multimedia applications so if anything should go wrong, it needs to be back up and running quickly. That's why we recommended the CommScope Uniprise solution. It not only met these requirements, it exceeded them."

The CommScope solution has been installed in six buildings so far: Wakeland High School, Liberty High School, Carroll Elementary, Robertson Elementary, Mooneyham Elementary and the Administration Annex. The district turned to architects Corgan Associates Inc. to design and implement the cabling for the elementary and middle schools, and to SHW Group to design and implement the solutions for the high schools and specials buildings – elementary schools require more than 100,000 feet of cabling while Wakeland High School has more than 560,000 feet installed. The cabling runs from the MDF room to the IDF closets, and, finally, to the classrooms.

"SHW Group is dedicated to designing the best learning environments the nation has to offer, and that means nothing less than an end-to-end solution like Uniprise," said Greg Chase, Director Technology Planning, for SHW Group. "With this cabling installed, Frisco will be one of the premier school districts in the country, with plenty of room to grow."

The end-to-end solution utilizes Uniprise copper, fiber and apparatus. The 5504M plenum cabling is a Category 5e+ copper cabling that supports Gigabit Ethernet, 155 Mb/s asynchronous transfer mode, 100 Mb/s Twisted Pair Physical layer Medium Dependent (TP-PMD)/Copper Distributed Data Interface (CDDI) and fast Ethernet. The cabling also meets or exceeds ANSI/TIA/EIA 568B.2 Category 5e and the ISO/IEC 11801 Class D Standards.

The installations also employ non-halogen indoor/outdoor six and 12 fiber optic cabling. Black jackets on the cabling are UV-stable for outdoor use and meet NEC/CEC riser safety standards. The riser rating eliminates splice points at the building entrance and the ARID-CORE water blocking technology helps protect fibers from moisture. Most importantly, the tight-buffered construction reduces installation costs.

The cabling supports typical classroom applications such as word processing, database, spreadsheet and various curriculum applications and more bandwidth-intensive applications, including streaming video to the desktop, video teleconferencing for virtual field trips and surveillance video. But the solution also presents the school district with a host of future possibilities. With the Uniprise solution in place, FISD can move toward Voice over

IP and Gigabit to the desktop without losing its initial investment.

“For our construction documents, we look for data companies that will provide us with a trained and certified installer, a minimum 25-year warranty on the cabling and a company that will be willing to send a company representative to the school sites and walk with our technicians to do a quality control inspection,” said John Curran, technology construction manager for FISD. “CommScope was able to offer all of that. So far we have had very good success with the CommScope installations – DataTex and SHW Group saw to that. We appreciate the opportunity to work with good vendors, which we consider CommScope to be, and we look forward to working with them more in the future.”