

# SETTING THE CLASSROOM STANDARD:

South Carolina school district makes  
classroom technology a priority

## CHALLENGES

Fort Mill School District is quickly growing and strives to keep classroom technology updated. As old classroom technology failed, district leaders wanted a way to standardized more than 1,200 classrooms, and implement that in technology plan across all new schools.

"It's extremely important to make sure that no matter where you are in our community, no matter what school you go to, that you are getting the same level of education, and the same level of opportunities. That starts by making sure the classrooms have the same level of equipment," says Brian Spittle, Executive Director of Technology Services for Fort Mill Schools.

## CONSIDERATIONS

- What classroom technology will serve K-12 with minimal maintenance?
- How can a standard be created that will cover all grades and subjects?
- Who will be able to complete this phased project over several years, only working on classrooms during the summer months?



## SOLUTION

Smarter Systems worked with Fort Mill School District to create a classroom standard. It consisted of three pieces of audiovisual equipment: a SMART Board Interactive Display, SMART Document Camera, and a Front Row Juno classroom audio system. "We tried to develop what a standard classroom should look like," said Spittle. To ensure that no SMART Board would ever need to be moved or changed, Smarter Systems installed an adjustable mount in every elementary school classroom.

To unify nearly 1,200 classrooms in 18 different schools with a phased approach, Smarter Systems worked throughout the 8-week summer break. Smarter Systems summer installs typically included about 200 to 300 classrooms beginning the day after school closed for the summer and ending one week before the fall session began. Spittle said, "when we go into these types of projects, we aren't just looking for an installer." He added, "We were really looking for a company to partner with who could bring different options to the table as we ran into different situations... Smarter Systems has definitely been that partner for us," he added.

## RESULTS

By making classroom technology a priority, Fort Mill School District has created a learning standard that is only a dream for most school districts. This type of standardization put the focus on the educational lesson instead of the environment and lack of support technology. Teachers and students are given the same advantage in every school across the district. This six-year partnership between Fort Mill Schools and Smarter Systems created a culture of collaboration and communication. Spittle credits this partnership for the implantation success "we needed somebody who could handle the project management portion of it, the planning, the walkthroughs, just a comprehensive solution."