

# Greater Johnstown School District

## FirstLight Internet and Dark Fiber Services Increase Bandwidth and Productivity for Students and Faculty in the New York School District

### CHALLENGE

The **Greater Johnstown School District** of Fulton County, New York is a public school accredited by the NYS Education Department, serving approximately 1,800 students in universal pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The dedicated staff strives to provide each child with a quality education and to foster in them the ability to be critical and creative thinkers, problem-solvers, responsible citizens and life-long learners.



In 2016, the Greater Johnstown School District put out a request for bid for Internet and WAN services to schools throughout the City of Johnstown, consisting of six buildings: Pleasant Avenue Elementary (pre-k, kindergarten and first grade); Glebe Street Elementary (second and third grades); Warren Street Elementary (fourth, fifth and sixth grades); Knox Junior High (seventh and eighth grades); Johnstown High School (ninth through twelfth grades); and Jansen Avenue School, which hosts new, creative and innovative educational programs, including The Learning Project and HFM BOCES Regional P-Tech (Pathways in Technology Early College High School).

### SOLUTION

After presenting the bid and reviewing submissions via a thorough search for the right Internet and WAN services provider, the Greater Johnstown School District selected FirstLight, a leading fiber-optic bandwidth infrastructure services provider operating in the Northeast. The district selected FirstLight for its premier, cost-effective services and notable recommendations from other school districts in the region. FirstLight also stood out as one of the few providers that could offer the school district the viable dark fiber solution it sought.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### COMPANY:

- Greater Johnstown School District

#### INDUSTRY:

- Education

#### LOCATION:

- New York

#### CHALLENGE:

- The Greater Johnstown School District strives to provide every child with quality education
- In 2016, the district put out a request for Internet and WAN to service schools throughout the city of Johnstown
- The request consisted of six buildings, and covering students from Pre-K to Grade 12.

#### SOLUTION:

- FirstLight was selected after a the bid and formal submission review
- FirstLight was selected for its premier, cost-effective services and notable recommendations from other schools in the district
- FirstLight stood out as one of the few providers that could offer the school district a viable dark fiber solution

#### RESULTS:

- FirstLight's Internet and dark fiber WAN services enable network connectivity throughout the district, including all four administrative buildings
- As a result of working with FirstLight, the Greater Johnstown School District has experienced greatly improved connectivity with zero instances of buffering or downtime

FirstLight's Internet and dark fiber WAN services enable network connectivity throughout the district, including all four administrative buildings. FirstLight's dark fiber service offers the school district fully scalable, dedicated, private, physical network infrastructure to all remote sites, while FirstLight's Internet service enables direct, dedicated, symmetrical connectivity accessible to all within the school district.

"By moving our Internet and WAN connections to FirstLight, we are able to bring increased bandwidth to our stakeholders," commented Rachel Heroth, Director of Technology for the Greater Johnstown School District. "This allows our students and staff to effectively access web-based software that supports and enhances instruction. In the months since we began using FirstLight's services, we have seen a marked improvement in performance. We believe that our network connections should never stand in the way of learning, and FirstLight's services have allowed us to see that vision through, across all buildings within our district."

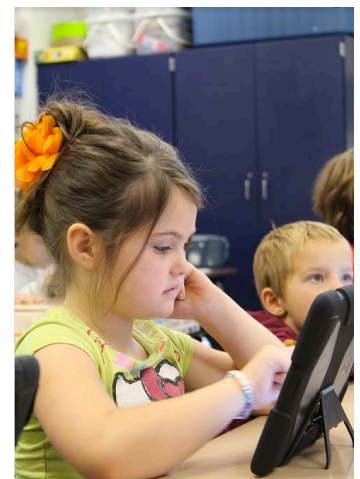


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## RESULTS

Today's school districts have a growing need for better, faster connectivity solutions that not only will enhance learning and overall performance for students, faculty and administrators alike, but that also allow for easy bandwidth upgrades when needed.

As a result of working with FirstLight, the Greater Johnstown School District has experienced greatly improved connectivity with zero instances of buffering or downtime. The district is preparing to increase its contracted bandwidth with FirstLight in the future as more devices enter student hands, and more of its curriculum becomes web-based. FirstLight provides a comprehensive portfolio of secure, scalable, E-rate eligible telecommunications solutions combined with a knowledgeable staff experienced in working with K-12 districts and libraries to support advanced voice/VoIP, multicast, video and distance learning applications for single and multi-site institutions.



## ABOUT FIRSTLIGHT

FirstLight provides a full complement of cost effective, high quality, scalable telecommunications services, including private line, high speed Internet access, data center, cloud, managed and voice services to retail and wholesale customers throughout the Northeast.