

Pinkerton Academy

Largest Independent High School in US Chooses FirstLight for High Speed Internet

CHALLENGE

Pinkerton Academy, located in Derry, New Hampshire, is the largest independent high school in the US. The primary source of funding for the Academy is public tuition. Via contracts with area school districts, Pinkerton serves as the high school of record for the neighboring towns of Auburn, Candia, Chester, Derry, Hampstead and Hooksett, NH. Pinkerton Academy also accepts a limited number of students from other local communities on an application-based, and private-tuition basis, including more than 20 towns from New Hampshire and Massachusetts.



In 2017, Pinkerton sought to connect 23 buildings across its 170+ acre campus via high speed Internet. The academy also has what it refers to as its “1:1 initiative,” which is a program designed to put “more devices into the hands of students.” To support this initiative, Pinkerton required a secure computing platform that would both upgrade its bandwidth capacity and guarantee near 100% Internet uptime. To further support the academy’s growing network needs, Pinkerton also sought a dark fiber solution as well as hosted phone services to replace its dated phone system.

SOLUTION

The search for the communications provider best suited to support its networking needs went smoothly for Pinkerton Academy. Pinkerton was familiar with FirstLight as a leader of educational networking services in the Northeast and after becoming fully acquainted with FirstLight’s capabilities and service portfolio, Pinkerton Academy’s Technology Director, Rich O’Connell and his team were confident that FirstLight could easily accommodate the academy’s needs for a resilient network and could design a solution that was capable of re-routing traffic to an alternate location should an issue arise.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMPANY:

- Pinkerton Academy

INDUSTRY:

- Education

LOCATION:

- New Hampshire

CHALLENGE:

- The primary source of funding for the Academy is public tuition
- Pinkerton sought to connect 23 buildings across its 170+ acre campus via high speed internet
- Pinkerton required a secure computing platform to upgrade bandwidth capacity and guarantee 100% uptime

SOLUTION:

- Pinkerton chose FirstLight to offer a ready-to-go infrastructure with failover circuits routed to different locations
- Pinkerton opted for two 2 Gbps, geographically diverse Internet circuits, to serve the academy’s approximately 3,200 students and 580 employees.
- FirstLight’s Internet and dark fiber WAN services enables network connectivity throughout the 170+ acre campus

RESULTS:

- Pinkerton Academy supports the academic growth of its students in a challenging, respectful and collaborative environment
- FirstLight provides a comprehensive portfolio of secure, scalable teleco solutions
- FirstLight supports advanced voice/VoIP, multicast, video and distance learning applications for single and multi-site institutions for K-12 schools

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FirstLight's Internet and dark fiber WAN services enables network connectivity throughout the 170+ acre campus. FirstLight's dark fiber service offers the school district fully scalable, dedicated, private, physical network infrastructure to the entire campus, while FirstLight's Internet service enables direct, dedicated, symmetrical connectivity accessible to all students and staff.

"Our investment in a total of 4 Gbps Internet bandwidth from FirstLight has provided us with virtually unlimited ability to scale, and 99.999% uptime for our 3,500-plus end-users," stated O'Connell. "As a Technology Director, it is refreshing to know external bandwidth capacity, and uptime will not be an issue for years to come. FirstLight has gone above and beyond to deliver on all fronts



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RESULTS

As the largest independent high school in the US, Pinkerton Academy aims to support the academic growth of its students in a challenging, respectful and collaborative environment, and by working with FirstLight, Pinkerton has full support of this mission. The FirstLight solution provides the Internet connectivity that Pinkerton needs to support and enable its students, faculty and staff to explore the world. The scalable bandwidth not only meets the Academy's needs today, but the school is confident that it can easily scale bandwidth should the need arise. The network is designed with resilience in mind - utilizing two geographically diverse circuits, so should a situation arise, the organization will not be negatively affected.

Pinkerton also took advantage of FirstLight's ability to provide customized, comprehensive solutions. By utilizing Dark Fiber services, Pinkerton was able to connect their users throughout their 170+ acre campus. Pinkerton also replaced an outdated phone system with a modern, hosted solution provided by FirstLight.

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.