

## SOLUTION OVERVIEW

# K-12 Education—Remote Access Points

## Secure connectivity for students during Covid 19

### OVERVIEW

#### School connectivity must be unified, always-on, and automated

With the rapid spread of COVID-19, schools around the world have been asked to offer emergency remote teaching—and ensure that students continue to be educated despite closed facilities. Based on UNESCO estimates from the beginning of May, 2020, schools in nearly 180 countries remain shut with over 1.3B students impacted in both K-12 and Higher Education. In the US, nearly 54 million K-12 students cannot physically attend their public or private school and they are not expected to do so for some time. However, according to most recent **federal data**, about 14 percent of households with school-aged students in the United States do not have internet access – making emergency remote learning nearly impossible.

To address this shortfall, districts have opted to provide quick fixes and band-aid solutions in form of temporary free and low-cost access partnerships with ISPs, offering outdoor Wi-Fi in parking lots or via mobile Wi-Fi bus deployments in remote areas.

Furthermore, districts are offering hotspot devices to some students which permit Wi-Fi access to the internet but often do not address security, network compliance, support, and important management capabilities.

Aruba has partnered with several telecom carriers to deliver the ideal offering in form of “Remote Access Points” which cover reliable Wi-Fi, secure connectivity, easy deployment, centralized management and much more.

### ABOUT REMOTE ACCESS POINTS (RAP)

#### Anywhere learning

Enabling students to learn without interruption, while also abiding by compliance or IT security policies is critical to mitigate risk and ensure privacy and confidentiality. Secure Remote Access Points can extend the district office to the remote site – the student’s home.

### RELIABLE WI-FI & SCHOOL INTRANET ACCESS

#### School-like experience

Wi-Fi-enabled Chromebooks, iPads and laptops are the most common devices needed for remote instruction. But they’re only as useful as the infrastructure they connect to. Aruba provides highly reliable Wi-Fi that won’t interrupt curriculum learning and can easily and rapidly be deployed in residential settings.

Most importantly, with Aruba’s Remote Access points, students connect to the same network they would be using if they were sitting at school in a classroom.

### SECURE CONNECTIVITY & COMPLIANCE

#### Zero Trust Networking Security

Security is a major concern for K-12 schools, and threats come from insiders, such as students, as well as outside attackers. Aruba’s Remote Access Points support strong authentication and encryption and can enforce role-based access controls.

Users and devices have restricted access to only those network, IT, and learning application resources for which they have been approved – no separate VPN client needed. In addition, knowing that students are connecting to the district SSID, all established content and web filtering as well as CIPA compliant policies are enforced, making a RAP a much better choice than a simple unsecure hotspot.

### EASY DEPLOYMENT

#### 10-minute set-up – Zero touch provisioning

Aruba RAPs support wired and wireless connectivity, traffic forwarding based on policy, user-centric security, and links over cellular networks. As an integral part of the Aruba K-12 solution, low-cost plug-and-play RAPs are installed by students or their parents at home. Using a no-touch deployment approach, RAPs are easy to set up and require no IT assistance. When connected, RAPs automatically extend school district resources to the student



using site-to-site VPN tunnels from the central data center, where all configuration, management, authentication and reporting are handled by the Aruba Mobility Controller.

**CENTRALIZED IT MANAGEMENT**

**School district control**

While most school districts expect their remote staff and teachers to provide their own infrastructure, by using the capability of the RAPs, it becomes possible for network administrators to provide connectivity to students directly and to monitor and manage all network connections. Further, identifying issues before they become a problem is no longer guess work.

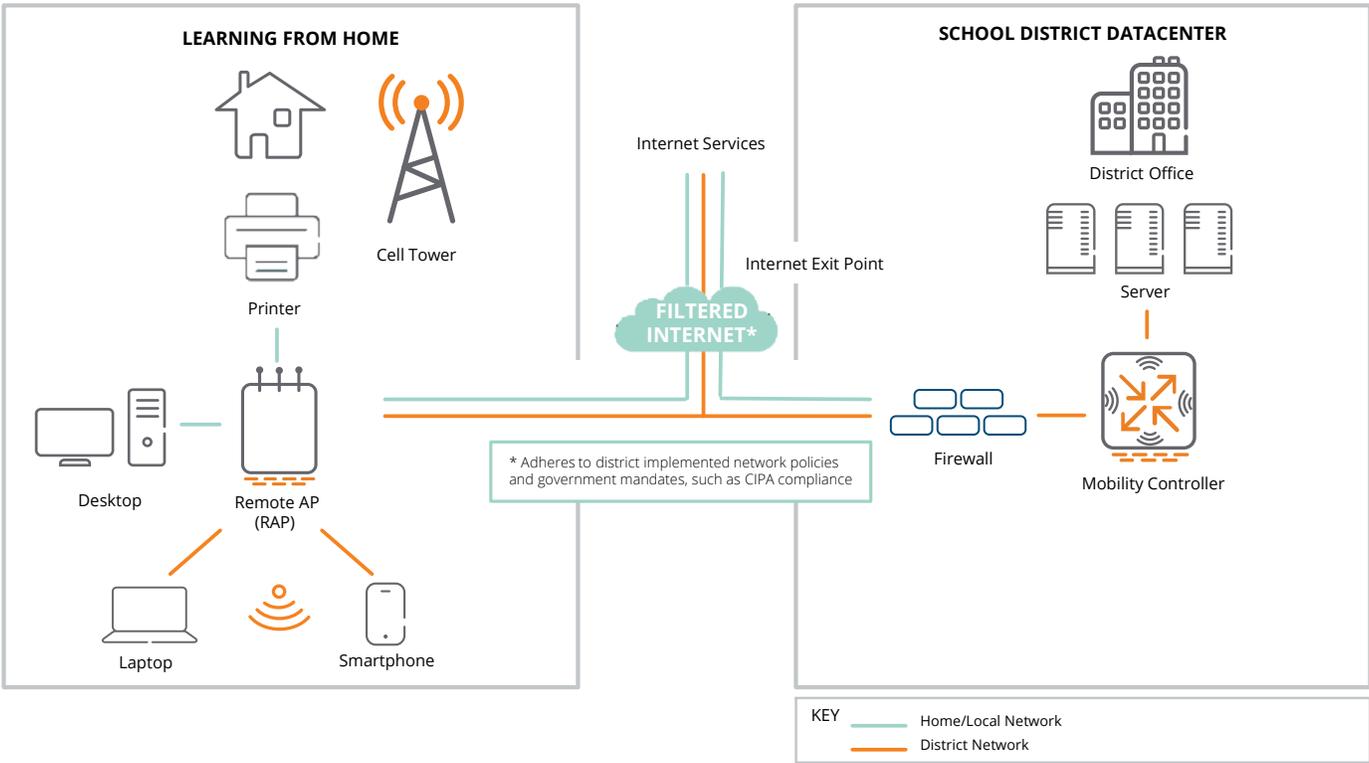
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**REMOTE NETWORKING FOR STUDENTS @ HOME**



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