

Track and Manage

Your Entire School System
without Sacrificing Your Peace



Whitepaper on VoIP for Schools:
Your Guide to Accelerate Modern School System

Cut the maintenance costs of your school in half



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Effective communication within schools can be a challenge. Bringing campuses and departments together, and managing a large high school can be time-consuming as well as stressful.

There are manual processes and tedious paperwork to stay on top of, in areas like fees, admissions, attendance, transportation, and so on. This information needs to be shared and kept up to date, and even one small error can cause a lot of disruption.

Teachers struggle to monitor the activities of their students, including attendance, discipline, leave, and assignments. Student safety is a huge concern these days too, so it is vital to be able to track where they should be at any given time.

So, what is the solution to these issues - is there a way to manage a high school without confusion, stress and mistakes?

Fortunately, the answer is yes!

A good VoIP service for schools will save you time, reduce staff workload, and reduce stress about tracking students' whereabouts. You can simplify fee collections using online forms, and send automatic alerts, notifications and reminds using email and text messages.



What is VoIP Phone Service for Schools?

VoIP, or voice over internet protocol, is a dynamic communication platform which can enhance student, teacher and staff member safety, and help to improve the learning process.

Cloud-based VoIP technologies are becoming more popular in schools, to modernize and simplify systems and to improve operational efficiency.

Communication is vital in any business but especially for schools. More and more schools are switching their old-fashioned landlines and clunky administration systems for the increased freedom and convenience of VoIP.



What to Expect from a VoIP Phone System for Schools?

A reliable phone system with useful features is crucial for every school regardless of size or location, and a sound investment for enhancing communication between teachers, students, parents and faculty members.

A school is able to build stronger relationships between teachers and students, enhance the learning experience, and improve productivity and mobility. Let's take a closer look at some of the benefits:

1 A Full Student Tracking System

Teachers are able to listen to voicemail or receive emails over a cell phone, then respond to parents, when using a VoIP system. Call routing, hunt groups and find- or follow-me ensure that teachers can receive calls from parents even when they are away from campus.

This brings peace of mind to both parents and teachers, and allows them to track their children's performance in class. Teachers are able to respond to inquiries in real time.

2 Simplify the School Management System

Features offered by VoIP include voicemail, conferencing and instant messaging, to simplify collaboration between teachers, students and outside field experts.

Students can use conferencing to take virtual tours, and work with students from other schools or talk with field experts - all without leaving their campus.

This type of centralized management system makes project coordination much easier between students, mentors and project members, and gives students educational opportunities they would not otherwise have access to.



3 A School Monitoring System

Educators are by default busy people. They have to plan classes, grade papers, keep attendance records, answer emails and phone calls, and much more. A VoIP system can increase the efficiency of some day to day administration, freeing up educators' precious time to focus on other tasks.

Auto-attendants can be used to directly connect callers with the correct faculty. Educators can access their voice messages on any device from any location, either as audio or transcribed to text. Emergency contact information can be updated, absences reported and exam stress minimized.

4 A School Monitoring The School Bell Feature

A VoIP system gives a school the ability to incorporate a bell system. You can set this feature up to run alongside your existing system. A bell tone can be played over PA systems and phones according to your preferred weekly schedule.

You can also manually play a bell tone with the press of a button. Multiple schedules, each with a unique tone, can be set up.

5 Set Up a Smart Virtual Classroom

A good VoIP phone system for schools lets teachers communicate with outside field experts and students remotely. This means there is no need for a special network or even a physical classroom during training or a discussion.

A virtual classroom can be established using devices such as desktop computers, laptops, cell phones, and tablets.

6 Access Lectures Anytime from Anywhere

The call recording feature gives students the ability to listen to lectures. They can record calls and keep them as audio files, then use them during mentoring programs and study groups. This expands the students' knowledge and improves their educational experiences.

7 Safety and Security Benefits

Integrating an emergency notification system is a great way to enhance the safety and security of teachers, students and other faculty members.

A VoIP-enabled notification system can help the school identify and manage any emergencies or possible threats. Authorities can be immediately alerted.

VoIP also supports advanced 911, or E-911, to pinpoint the exact location of any caller. This is useful in large campuses with a number of buildings.

8 Automate Important Information

An auto-attendant can be programmed to put callers through to the correct personnel or department, and it does more too. You can program it to send holiday greetings or after-hours messages to callers.

9 Slash Maintenance Costs By 50%

Schools can enjoy financial savings by reducing maintenance costs and administrative expenses. VoIP operates on an IP network, so schools don't need to use a traditional phone line to receive and send messages and calls.

There are no recurring charges for calls, like you would have with a traditional telephone system running on copper wiring.

The school's current phone system does not need to be replaced, meaning capital expenses and operational costs can be reduced. A school with a stable internet connection can continue to use their existing wireless technology to extend data and voice services to various locations.

VoIP means you don't need a dedicated IT staff. The service provider is the one to handle system maintenance.



VoIP Phone System for Schools: Top Features

A VoIP system offers many more features than a conventional telephone system using landlines. This new technology also reduces the amount of equipment needed. Let's take a look at some of the best features of VoIP used in a school environment.



1 Reliability



Communication is critical for schools. If a phone line goes down, this can lead to other problems such as not being able to make or receive calls to parents, or to the emergency services should the need arise.

Cloud-based VoIP minimizes the chance of the phone service failing, especially if you're running it on a fiber connection.

VoIP phones connect over the internet rather than via copper wires like standard phone lines. Bad weather can make a copper wire-based phone line fail, but this doesn't happen with internet delivered via fiber.

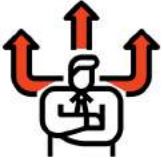
2 Affordability



Contrary to belief, VoIP is typically cheaper than a traditional landline service. You will save many thousands of dollars in initial costs and ongoing maintenance by choosing a cloud-based private branch exchange (PBX).

A cloud-based PBX means a scalable system, so you aren't paying for more features than you actually want. If you want to add new lines, you can do this individually rather than having to pay for a bulk order.

3 Flexibility



A flexible option for your phone system is very important, especially in an educational setting. A lot of VoIP providers don't make you sign up for an annual contract, which means you are free to change your service at any time, instead of being locked into a fixed contract which can be hard to break away from when it does expire.

Calls on VoIP can be rerouted via emergency dial plans, which is very useful. This means if the internet does go down, the phone system is still operational. This would need to be set up ahead of time, but it should be part of your communication plan.

If the phones on campus were to lose connectivity or power, you would still have the VoIP programmed to forward calls to an alternative landline or cellphone.

4 Professionalism



Perception is half the battle with most companies these days, but a VoIP system will give your school a more professional feel.

Answering calls with an automated system to direct calls to the right person or department, playing hold music while callers wait, and sending calls to parents to keep them up to date all help to boost the professional image of the school.



Why Cebod Telecom is the Best VoIP Service Provider for Schools?

There are different providers to choose from when shopping for VoIP for schools, all of which vary slightly in terms of pricing and features. Cebod Telecom is one of the best-rated if you want to move with the times and upgrade from conventional landlines.

Their phones are reliable and user-friendly, and there are various models to choose from depending on your requirements. Many schools choose Cebod Telecom because the systems are easy to use, even for those new to VoIP, and the pricing is very competitive.

Cebod Telecom's VoIP service comes with many features. Let's take a look at some of the most useful ones:



Robo-calling

Not all robo-calls are bad. You might not appreciate the ones from extended warranty sellers that come at awkward times, but in the case of schools it is a useful feature.

Say a school had to close because of heavy snow or a pupil didn't show up one day, you can send an automated call to the child's house.

This feature can be a real timesaver. Rather than having to call 200 parents individually, you can simply have your VoIP bot place one call and this will go through to all the parents.



Call Routing

It is straightforward to set up call routing when using a VoIP system. Callers can work through prerecorded options using extension menus, to ensure their call gets through to the correct faculty member or department.

Answers to common questions such as hours, weather updates or upcoming events can be recorded by administrators, so any callers can access this information without having to wait for someone to pick up the phone, even outside of school hours.

If there are a number of calls all trying to come in at the same time, a VoIP system can offer a queue so callers know approximately how long they will have to wait, or how many callers are in the queue ahead of them. They will also of course get the chance to leave a message instead.



Intercom Support

A working intercom system is vital in schools, to share announcements, alert the building in case of a hazard, or page teachers or students. You can make announcements from your desk rather than needing extra equipment, since VoIP phones can connect directly to the intercom system.



Conference Bridge

This feature enables many people to participate in one call. This is very useful because there is much less to plan with meetings. Administrators will not need to plan around travel times or busy schedules, and this type of conference can be conducted from anywhere there is cellphone service.



Call Recording

There are various ways you can record phone calls. When dealing with children's information, it is always useful to keep a log, in case you ever need to access that information.

Recorded call archives may be stored centrally or locally. Your archive is easy to retrieve but is also protected to avoid unauthorized access.

 **Group SMS**

With group SMS, users can preprogram several numbers into one extension, meaning a caller can dial one number in order to connect with multiple lines. This is an effective and safe way to alert classrooms to an incident without having to broadcast it over the whole campus.

Group SMS is also handy if the intercom stops working for any reason, or to provide important information during a lockdown.

 **Email Integration**

Calls can be routed to a cellphone when you are out of the office, and you can also receive emails from your voicemail box. The VoIP system transcribes the text and also makes it searchable.

Therefore administrators can leave messages for teachers and they can read them without disturbing the class.

How to Get Started with VoIP and Enjoy These Great Benefits?

Now that you are ready to switch to the future of communication and elevate the running of your school to the next level, you simply need to sign up for a FREE Cebod Telecom trial.

Cebod Telecom guarantees a comprehensive solution for all your cloud-based needs which will improve and streamline your whole school system.

Once you know how useful and easy a VoIP system is to run, you will never want to go back to using conventional phones again!

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