



# Is technology an advantage for your school, or a burden?

How an Aruba network infrastructure can deliver the connectivity, ease of management and high-quality digital experience that today's students, teachers and parents expect.



Technology plays a vital role in positioning Australian schools for success.

To equip students for the demands of a modern, ever-evolving workforce, educators are looking to find new, engaging, digital ways to teach both technical and 'soft' skills – as well as offer the ability for students to engage with their learning from any location. Academic success alone is no longer seen as the ultimate goal. In fact, 90% of Australian people interviewed in a recent survey said education should place a higher value on practical, vocational skills.<sup>1</sup>

Increasingly, schools around the world are turning to technologies like artificial intelligence and analytics to deliver against these objectives. This, along with a rise in connected technologies, and pressure to support BYOD policies, considerably increases demand on school networks.

Plus, as the Covid-19 pandemic has illustrated, the nature of schooling can also change at a moment's notice. To thrive, and deliver the best possible experience for students, educators, staff, and the wider school community, schools need to be flexible, responsive, and prepared for whatever the future may bring.

This is where a reliable, fast and secure network comes in.



**Education is evolving at a faster pace than any other period in recent history. Because of this, it's more important than ever to understand how and where it's changing so that educators and schools can support students in preparing for challenges and careers that don't exist today.**

– Google Education<sup>2</sup>

# Why choose an Aruba network infrastructure for your school?

Aruba Solution Portfolio		
	Administrative Office	Campus
<b>Switches</b>	Aruba 5400R	Aruba 3810 or Aruba 2920
<b>Wireless Access points</b>	Aruba 215 or 320 APs	Aruba 205 or 215 APs (classroom) Aruba 320 APs (lecture hall) Aruba 270 APs (outdoor)
<b>WLAN Controller</b>	On-premise – Aruba7200 Cloud-based – Aruba Central Controllerless – Aruba Instant	
<b>Security</b>	Aruba ClearPass Policy Enforcement Firewall (PEF) RF Protect	
<b>Network Management</b>	Aruba Airwave	
<b>Mobile Engagement</b>	Meridian with Aruba Beacons and Sensors	
<b>Software Defined Networking</b>	HPE SDN App Store 25+ Apps Available	

## Fast and easy to deploy

It's not uncommon for a school's IT Manager, or team, to feel overwhelmed with the volume of work they have been charged with. There are increasing security risks to stay on top of, BYOD policies to manage, new students to on-board, and countless other updates and configurations that need doing on a daily basis.

Fortunately, getting started with an Aruba network solution is quick and easy. Zero touch provisioning means the solution is essentially 'plug and play'. Access points, switches and branch gateways are centrally provisioned, with an easy to use set-up wizard. Additionally, a mobile app enables IT to allocate installation duties to a local resource who can assign devices on the fly. Simply connect your Aruba hardware in the desired location, and it's automatically configured and booted. No hassle. No special skills needed.

## Intuitive, cloud-based management

Another key advantage of an Aruba network solution is the visibility and insight it provides, around the clock. As soon as your solution is up and running, you gain access to a control panel, and a range of management and orchestration tools. This means that in the one, central location, you can view a broad range of information about the status of your school's network – meaning you can rapidly identify and resolve any issues, and easily see if there are any areas requiring attention. This gives you end-to-end visibility and control, regardless of where the devices in your network are located.

Simple navigation lets you find what you are looking for in three clicks or less. Real-time analytics highlight built-in user and traffic metrics. Plus, there are reporting features which enable you to show statistics and usage information to your school's stakeholders.



## Industry-leading performance

When you choose Aruba, you can also be confident that you're choosing a robust and powerful solution that delivers industry-leading performance. Aruba's network infrastructure includes patented performance optimisation features, real-time insights and automated troubleshooting tools that reduce incidents and enable IT teams to proactively and expeditiously resolve problems.

To ensure that students, staff and teachers are receiving the best possible connectivity experience, there are tools like ClientMatch, Adaptive Radio Management and application self-tuning. Machine learning is leveraged to provide consistent and reliable information about the health of the school's network on a continuous basis. Insights are then used to optimise the network for improved performance and service availability.

Aruba's Visual RF and Connectivity Health applications gather network analytics to visually display coverage gaps, rogue devices and detailed connectivity information for simple troubleshooting. Also, Aruba's Guest Wi-Fi delivers a customisable and secure high-quality guest access experience for school visitors.

## Multi-threat network security

The risk of cyber-attack is increasing on a daily basis. For schools, which house huge volumes of sensitive data, security is a critical priority.

With an Aruba network solution, robust wireless and wired network security features are included at every point of the network – from the switches and access points where the latest security protocols, policy enforcement and threat mitigation takes place, to the cloud infrastructure that provides monitoring and control. Plus, it's all easily administered by IT teams with minimal training.

## Key security features include:



**Aruba's multi-tiered Policy Enforcement Firewall (PEF)** which applies security, traffic forwarding, and network performance policies to wireless clients and applications for secure high-quality communications.



**Remote Access Point Intrusion Detection Service (RAPIDS)** which detects and mitigates rogue APs and network threats.



**Web content filtering** which identifies the trustworthiness of sites visited and prevents users from accessing unauthorised websites by URL and IP addresses.



**Application visibility and control** which uses deep packet inspection technology and over 3,000 application IDs to identify and classify applications to ensure accurate policy enforcement.



**Two-factor authentication** which uses Google authentication for flexible secure access.



**Certified access points** to support the latest Wi-Fi security standards. WPA3 and Enhanced Open encrypt authentication data, traffic and protect networks and clients against potential password attacks.



**Aruba Switches** to support ACLs, integration with RADIUS and TACACS+ servers, monitoring for denial of service attacks, SSL, and network segmentation.



**Customisable role-based network management privileges** which ensure the right IT people have the appropriate level of visibility and control.

## Infrastructure and cloud reliability

Aruba's network architecture is both flexible and resilient to ensure your school's network is always there to support the needs of students, educators, staff and the wider community.

Aruba's cloud-based management includes all the maintenance, regular updates and infrastructure redundancy needed to ensure consistent and reliable service availability. Hosted in the cloud in multiple data centres around the world, it provides dynamic scalability and iron-clad redundancy for maximum uptime.

Aruba access points in Instant mode include automatic failover, redundant links, and a management interface that remains accessible even in the event of a WAN outage or subscription service disruption. Plus, Aruba switches support stacking for increased capacity and redundancy, and redundant power supplies for failover protection.

## Cost savings

By streamlining and simplifying your school's network, you can also save precious IT management time and operating costs. In fact, studies reveal that an integrated, cloud-based network can save 68% of network costs over three years.<sup>3</sup>



## Experience you can count on

Gartner has recognised Aruba as a Leader in Wired and Wireless LAN Access Infrastructure for 13 consecutive years.

## Why Accucom?

Accucom is a successful Australian IT firm, with a specific focus on the education sector. We have been providing technology solutions to Australian schools since 1998, and we work with schools at every step of the technology journey – from initial consulting, to solution implementation, and ongoing support.

A gold-level Aruba partner, we have extensive experience implementing Aruba technologies in schools and businesses.

We continually reinvest in staff certification and training to ensure we're providing an exceptional level of business technology support services to our clients. We also invest heavily in infrastructure, so we can automatically monitor client servers and workstations, detecting problems before they cause downtime.

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## Find out more

If you're interested in learning more about Aruba's network infrastructure solutions and how this could work in your school, contact our expert team on **(02) 8825-5555** or visit **[accucom.com.au](https://accucom.com.au)**

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