



How to future-proof print management in schools

Education is undergoing a global transformation, and particularly Primary and Secondary (K-12) sectors. Changes are being led by social shifts, technological advancements, and evolving educational needs.

While digital learning continues to expand across all age groups, printing remains an important tool for staff and students.

This creates a challenge: *How can you efficiently manage print in a way that's aligned with the demands of the modern-day school?*

Managing a modern and future-proof print environment presents unique challenges for IT administrators and educators. Increasingly, schools utilize a range of devices, from traditional computers to Chromebooks, tablets, and smartphones, and each comes with its own printing requirements and

compatibility issues.

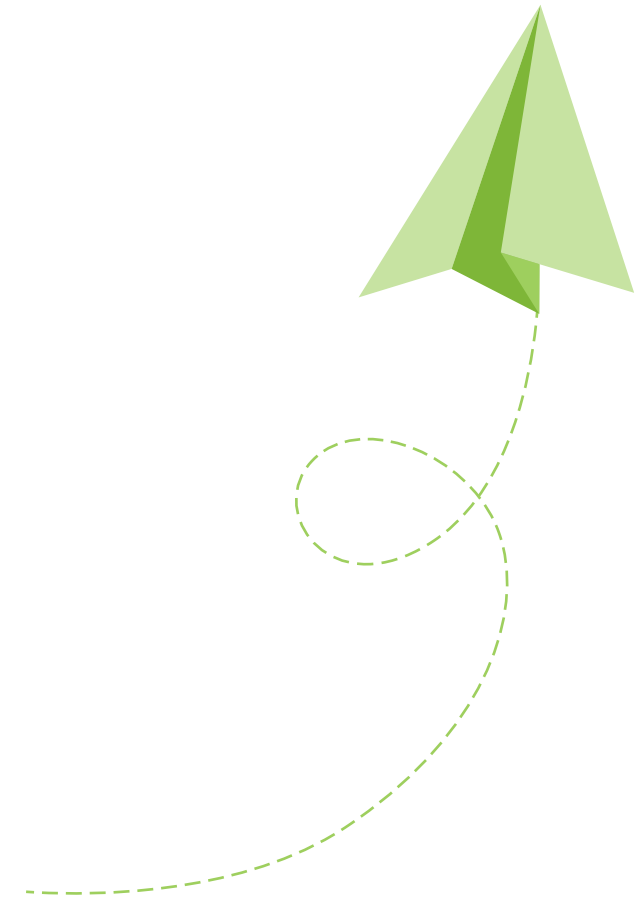
Ensuring secure and equitable access to printing resources for all students, staff, and administrators, regardless of their location or device, is crucial.

With many schools facing increased financial and budget pressures, the demand for cost-effective printing solutions and options to reduce or recoup costs is more popular than ever. Efficient print management can help minimize waste, reduce expenses, and ensure resources are allocated appropriately.

Schools can empower students and teachers to integrate print resources into their workflows, allowing for blended learning styles that leverages the benefits of both digital and print media.

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Use data to understand your print environment



As well as simplifying the end-to-end printing process at every touchpoint, print management software can provide schools with analytical tools that help them get a comprehensive understanding of the ins and outs of their print environment and how it's used.

This understanding is not just about managing the present; it's also about building and adapting to future changes in technology and usage patterns.

By collecting detailed data on all printing activity, print management software providers like PaperCut can offer unparalleled visibility and control.

How print management software can optimize your operations

User rules and limitations

Use printing rules to control costs and encourage sustainable printing habits. Enforce duplex (double-sided) printing, set quotas and limits, and push users towards black and white printing – and much more!

We'll get into the different ways you can control how your school's printers are used further on in this ebook.

Tracking

Track printing activity at every level, from individual users to documents and, with some PaperCut products, physical locations.

This granular data is essential for optimizing resource allocation in the present and for predicting future printing needs (including physical resources) with greater accuracy.

Comprehensive reporting

Generate reports to analyze printing trends, identify areas for improvement, and measure the impact of print management policies.

These reports are valuable tools for improving current print practices and identifying long-term trends shaping future print strategies.

Data-driven decision-making

Use the insights gained from PaperCut to inform your print strategy, optimize resources, and make informed decisions about your print infrastructure based on real-world usage patterns.

Establishing a data-driven approach is key to maximizing efficiency and building a flexible print environment that can adapt to the unknown demands of the future.

Real-time monitoring

See what's happening in your print environment as it happens, allowing you to monitor print queues, track device status, and identify potential issues before they escalate and disrupt school operations.

This real-time awareness is crucial for maintaining efficiency today and will become even more vital as print demands become more dynamic.



3 tools to streamline print management

By implementing automation and end-user-focused features, schools can streamline print management tasks and significantly reduce the burden on IT staff.

This focus on creating new efficiencies is crucial for schools with limited resources, and it becomes even more important as IT complexity increases.



1. Automated print queue deployment

Schools can eliminate the time-consuming and error-prone process of manual printer installations by automating the detection and installation of the appropriate printer drivers for users based on their location or group membership.

This will free IT staff to focus on more strategic initiatives with a greater future return on investment, as well as simplifying the management of an increasingly complex and diverse print environment.

2. BYOD printing made easy

PaperCut simplifies printing from any device, a critical feature in the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) environment often seen in today's schools.

As devices become more affordable and accessible, BYOD environments will become more widespread.

IT staff around the world depend on print management software like PaperCut to provide an easily-accessible and secure print experience without the need for complex configurations or IT intervention.

3. Mobile printing

Gone are the days when every student and teacher only had access to a desktop computer – nowadays, our devices move with us wherever we go, and we need them to be able to print seamlessly, and to the most convenient printer.

Enabling mobile printing allows your end-users to send print jobs from their devices and release them at their convenience, increasing flexibility and productivity.

This mobile functionality is valuable in today's learning environment and will be indispensable with continued sprawl and mobility in the schools of the future.



Cost savings and recovery

K-12 schools face increasing pressure to optimize their budgets and make every dollar count.

Print management software features can help schools achieve significant savings while promoting responsible resource usage.

This focus on cost-effectiveness is not just about addressing current budgetary constraints; it's about building sustainable foundations and practices.

Print policies that can help your school's bottom line:

Print quotas: Establish limits for individuals, groups, or departments to encourage responsible printing habits and prevent excessive printing.

Wasted resources is money lost, and implementing quotas is an effective tool for controlling costs as schools seek to maximize the value of limited resources.

Print policies: Enforcing cost-saving print policies, such as setting strategic default options, significantly reduces paper and toner usage.

Each results in a reduced environmental footprint and cost savings, making them a proven way to save money and contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious school environment.

Cost recovery: Some schools choose to implement policies that allow them to recoup printing expenses with flexible cost-recovery solutions.

Pay-for-print options can be used to charge individual students or departments for printing, ensuring resources are used responsibly and offsetting printing costs.

As well as reducing waste by adding a tangible value to each page, cost recovery can help you fund future technology investments.

Detailed cost analysis: Go beyond basic tracking and gain a deep understanding of your school's printing costs, potential wastage and usage, and the consequences.

PaperCut provides powerful cost-analysis tools that allow you to track and analyze printing expenses, identify areas for optimization, and make data-driven decisions to maximize your budget.

This granular cost analysis helps you identify savings opportunities and optimizations in your school's print environment.

Protecting sensitive information



Protecting student data and ensuring compliance with privacy regulations is a non-negotiable top priority for every school.

By implementing print management software with inbuilt security features, you can safeguard sensitive information and maintain a secure print environment in your school.

In an increasingly digital world, data security is not just a current concern; it's a fundamental requirement for K-12 schools, and is likely to become even more challenging.

Popular, essential, and effective features include:

Secure print release: Prevent unauthorized access to confidential documents by ensuring users must authenticate at the printer (using a PIN, card, or other method) to release their print jobs, ensuring that sensitive information is not left unattended and vulnerable.

Find-Me printing: Users can print to a central queue and release their jobs at any convenient printer.

Flexible authentication options: It's important to select a software that supports a variety of authentication methods, including ID cards, PIN codes, and mobile phone release, allowing schools to choose the approach that best aligns with their existing and planned security infrastructure and user preferences.

Regulatory compliance: Schools are required to comply with relevant data protection regulations, such as FERPA in the US.

Schools must ensure their printing practices adhere to standards, with compliance being a legal and ethical obligation set to become more critical as data privacy regulations evolve.



Environmental responsibility and sustainability

Beyond the financial advantages, effective print management plays a vital role in your school's environmental impact. Schools hold a unique position that allows them to educate students about environmental issues and actively demonstrate sustainable practices in day-to-day operations.

Substantial paper waste is generated by inefficient printing habits in millions of schools globally, and can be addressed by print management features such as duplex printing enforcement, page limits, and value assigned to each print job.

A reduction in paper waste is more than just a cost-saving measure; it helps to minimize environmental impact and build a more sustainable future.

By implementing comprehensive print management, schools can demonstrate a commitment to sustainability in their daily actions and create a culture of environmental awareness and responsibility among students and staff.





Real-world success with PaperCut

PaperCut has a proven track record of bringing improved efficiency, cost savings, enhanced security, and greater flexibility to schools across the world.

Here are a few examples:

- ▶ [Lubbock Independent School District](#) (USA)
Reduced print-related support requests by 30%, gained valuable insights into printing behavior, and empowered school administrators to manage their printing budgets.
- ▶ [Alcester Academy](#) (UK)
The school building's structure created challenges for its IT and print infrastructure – PaperCut Hive's cloud-based simplicity brought power, control, security, and print management savings to the school.
- ▶ [Colchester Royal Grammar School](#) (UK)
CRGS implemented PaperCut and was able to reduce student print waste by 90%, dramatically cutting costs.

PaperCut brings improved efficiency, cost savings, enhanced security, and greater flexibility to schools across the world.

Final thoughts

As technology continues to advance, and the needs of schools and their students evolve, the role of print management and its often-unconsidered effects will become even more critical.

Schools that proactively invest in quality and adaptable print management solutions like PaperCut today will be positioned to thrive in the evolving educational landscape.

PaperCut is dedicated to staying at the forefront of print management innovation, providing schools with the tools to create a sustainable, secure, and cost-effective print environment.



About PaperCut

PaperCut is a leader in print management software for schools, helping millions around the globe minimize waste with secure and simple printing experiences.

For over 25 years, PaperCut has been helping schools of all sizes make printing easy and secure for their end users, with a cross-platform, vendor-neutral approach to technology.

PaperCut's global team work to create solutions tailored to the unique demands of school environments, with a focus on ease-of-use, reporting, and cost efficiency.

We empower schools to securely manage printing, copying, and scanning, with features like secure print release, user authentication, and detailed audit logs.

If you're ready to upgrade how your school manages the way you print, PaperCut can help you create the best solution.

[SPEAK TO OUR TEAM TODAY](#)





PaperCut™

Want to learn more about the benefits and features of print management solutions for your school?

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Email sales@papercut.com