

# Panasonic Whiteboards

## case study | education



### ► UB-T780

## Arizona School District Selects UB-T780 To "Board Up" More Than 700 Classrooms

### Organization:

Roosevelt School District

### Scope:

Covering a suburban community in the South Mountain Park area just minutes from downtown Phoenix, the 21 school, 12,000 student, K-8 district had neither the funding nor the infrastructure to put multiple computers in every classroom.

The majority of the faculty, administrators and IT managers agreed that electronic whiteboards would, in the words of IT Director Stacey Hawkins, "give more of our kids the tech access they need."

For those reasons, the 2008 decision to begin boarding up every one of Roosevelt School District #66's approximately 700 classrooms seemed almost inevitable.

But if that was the easy decision, the back-breaking one was selecting a vendor and a model. According to Hawkins, the district conducted three different hands-on assessments of boards from various vendors covering curriculum vitality, features/performance/price ratio and durability.

After completing the full slate of tests and evaluations, district officials believed that Panasonic Interactive Panaboard, specifically the **Panaboard UB T-780**, was the best candidate for meeting both the advanced interactivity and basic whiteboard functionality requirements of their teachers, students, IT personnel and budgets.

Today, with more than 350 Panaboard already online in classrooms throughout the district, 100 boards currently being deployed, and plans to add **UB-T780s** to the district's remaining 200-plus classrooms by next summer, those officials no longer "believe" Panaboard are the best choice for their school system. Now they're certain of it.

### Overall User Impression:

"In testing, the Panasonic was clearly the best overall board in terms of durability of both the board surface and the internal electronics. It came bundled with the four major Easiteach software modules for which our teachers were asking. To top it off it was extremely user friendly, and delivered significantly more board for the buck on a feature-by-feature basis," Hawkins says.

Hawkins also notes that an extremely flat learning curve was a major factor in overcoming potential teacher resistance to inviting a 77-inch wide (diagonal) teacher's aide into their classrooms.

"We give the teachers two days of training before even turning the stylus over to them," Hawkins says. "At the end of those two days, most of them hit the ground running."

### Conclusion:

"The Panaboard are simply wonderful tools for us," he added. "We definitely had a limited number of computers at many of our schools and some of our students don't really have access to a computer at home. They simply would not have the ability to interact with a computer without the Panaboard."

"Static boards that didn't offer the **UB T-780's true duplex connectivity** with both the Web and multimedia learning applications simply couldn't meet our needs."

"Also, some of the other boards' screens suffered from either low brightness, a high susceptibility to reflection or both. The **UB-T780's anti-reflective screen** is so good teachers don't even have to dim the classroom lights while they are using it. Which is a real plus, because if there's one thing you definitely don't want to do when you're dealing with junior high kids it's turn off the lights."