At A Glance

Tampa Preparatory School

WHERE: *Tampa Preparatory School, FL*
WHEN: *Installed 2017*
WHAT: *FSR FlexLT System*
WHO: *Chad Lewis, Director of Technology, Tampa Preparatory School*

BCI Integrated Solutions, FL

Challenge

For more than 40 years, the Tampa Preparatory School's educational philosophy has been to instill values of fairness, decency, honor, diligence and academic curiosity in its students. Located in the heart of downtown Tampa in a 150,000 square-foot complex, this independent, co-educational college prep school has approximately 680 students enrolled in grades 6 through 12. The school, which is always looking to remain on the cutting-edge of technology, relies heavily on iPads® as a tool in its one-to-one learning environment, and strives to expand its curricular offerings with technology that supports a variety of learning styles. As a result, Tampa Preparatory School has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for innovation, leadership and educational excellence.

In an effort to make technology as seamless as possible for teachers, the school recently decided to replace the previous cumbersome remote control units in its Active Learning Environments with a new solution. The classrooms now spaces incorporate custom components including light, sound, comfort and technology to provide students with an atmosphere conducive to optimal learning, collaboration, student engagement and creativity. Criteria included an elegant design, small footprint and competitive price point to control over 100 displays previously operated by five remotes per teacher.

To help it attain its goal, the company recruited BCI Integrated Solutions, a leading provider of security, data & network cabling, fire & life safety, audio visual and healthcare communications solutions.

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Solution

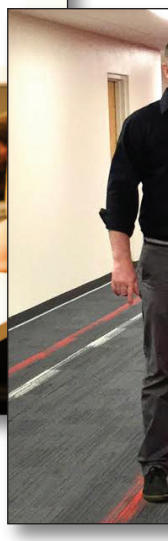
BCI Integrated Solutions selected FSR's FLEX-LT room control systems to replace the remotes. A total of 47 FLEX-LTs were installed; one per classroom and one in each of the main gathering rooms. The systems are now controlling two Epson Brightlink projectors, a flat screen TV, two Apple TVs® as well as all of the inputs on each of those devices per room.

The versatile units mount in a wall or sit on a surface to present an operator-friendly color touch screen. Non-technical users, both students and teachers, can operate the system effortlessly and control the various sources with a simple touch.

FLEX-LT allows projectors as well as other devices to be controlled in small spaces without the aid of an IR remote. A built-in scheduling feature provides cost and energy-savings with its power off command that will insure maximum projector bulb life by automatically shutting off displays that have been accidently left on. It can also alert the support staff to issues such as an elevated lamp life, therefore reducing the down time of the room.

The Flex-Able configuration utility features an uncomplicated method to maximize system capabilities with drag 'n drop programming that eliminates the need to learn another programming language. This allows easier updates if system equipment changes.

"One of our missions as Tampa Prep's Technology Department is to make technology as seamless as possible for teachers," *says Chad Lewis, Director of Technology at the Tampa Preparatory School, who worked closely with BCI Integrated Solutions on the project.* "The Flex control panels are a big part of our school's Active Learning Environments. With three digital displays per classroom, including two Apple TV's per room for a total of over 100 in the school, that would have been five remote controls per teacher. The FSR Flex removed the necessity of those remotes. No more chasing down batteries and the teacher doesn't have to fumble around looking for the correct remote, then remembering which button to select, etc."



Results

Tampa Preparatory School's Active Learning Environments received an user-friendly system designed so that both teachers and students alike can easily control an assortment of equipment. According to Lewis, the systems are so straightforward, "All the teachers have to do is to select what they want to do — it's in 'plain English.' For example, they press 'Student Apple TV' as opposed to finding the fourth remote and remembering to press 'input number three.' These new systems are helping teachers quickly get to teaching and students quickly get to learning as efficiently as possible."

Looking Forward

Lewis says that the school plans to transform its lecture halls into Active Lecture Environments in the future, just as all of its classrooms are now. At that time, Tampa Preparatory will once again look to FSR's FLEX-LT systems.

About the FlexLT System

*The FLEX-LT is a **self-contained control system** that has a vast number of features and a price point to please every budget. The FLEX-LT mounts in a wall or sits on a desk and presents an easy-to-use and understand color touch screen. Through the touch screen the user can choose what source is being displayed, change the volume, control the various sources, turn lights on and off, raise or lower the shades or screen and much more.*

*Using the **built-in scheduler**, the Flex-LT can automatically shut off displays that have been left unattended, and also alert the support staff if there is an issue such as the lamp life getting too high in order to reduce the down time of the room.*

*The Flex-Able **configuration utility** features an easy-to-use method to get the most out of the system. The contractor is presented with an easy to follow drag 'n drop programming methodology; no need to learn another programming language. Flex-Able eases device control by offering IR libraries or if a library is not available, the Flex-IR learner is a snap to use.*

Also, the Flex-LT control system can be controlled remotely via mobile devices such as an iPad®, through a downloadable app.

About Tampa Preparatory School

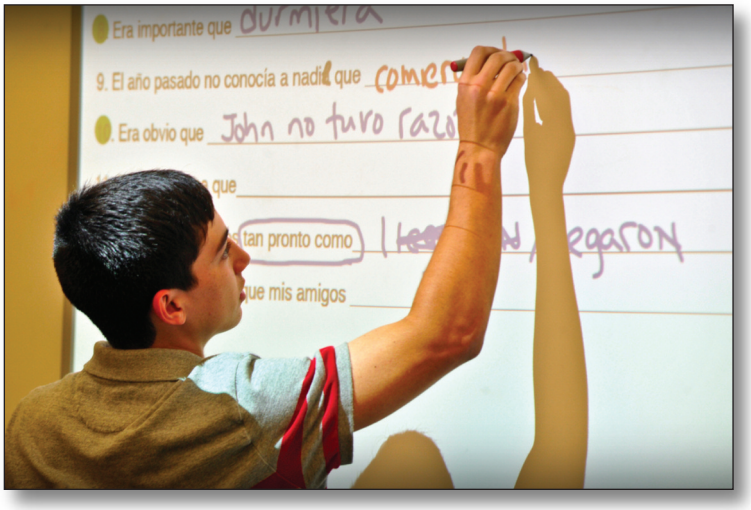
Tampa Preparatory School (tampaprep.org) is leading the way in education with its focus on what's best for students. The school's independent, coeducational college prep school enrolls approximately 680 students in grades 6 - 12. Students receive unparalleled instruction from caring teachers at the school's 150,000 square-foot complex located in the heart of downtown Tampa.

About BCI Integrated Solutions

Headquartered in Florida, with offices in Ft. Myers and Orlando, BCI Integrated Solutions (bcifl.net) is a licensed provider of specialized innovative electronic building solutions and low voltage systems. BCI expertly designs and installs audio video, security, structured cabling and life safety systems. Servicing clients locally and internationally, BCI has built solid relationships with prestigious and demanding clients and contractors by providing superior service and support. BCI Integrated Solutions has given professional solutions for businesses for over 15 years.

About FSR

FSR established in 1981, manufactures a wide variety of signal management and infrastructure solutions for the AV/IT Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), corporate, education, hospitality, government and religious markets. Products include floor, wall, table and ceiling connectivity boxes and wireways, as well as a full line of interfaces, distribution amplifiers, matrix switchers, seamless scaling switchers and HDBaseT™ signal delivery solutions. FSR offers live 24/7 technical and sales support throughout the country from expertly trained technicians and sales representatives. The Company is also an HDBaseT Alliance Adopter Member.



For more info: fsrinc.com.

244 Bergen Boulevard Woodland Park,
NJ 07424 800.332.FSR1 · 973.785.4347
F: 973.785.3318
W: fsrinc.com · E: sales@fsrinc.com

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