

TRANSFORMING LEARNING AND TEACHING IN PUERTO RICO SCHOOLS WITH C3 MICRO-CLOUD

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO KNOWLEDGE



PROVIDING THE RIGHT TOOLS TO ENABLE THE SUCCESS OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN RURAL SCHOOLS

Puerto Rico is an unincorporated territory of the United States located in the northeast Caribbean Sea with a total population of 3.4 million.

Spanish and English are the official languages, though Spanish predominates. Except for specialized classes in the English language, the language of instruction in all primary through secondary schools is Spanish. At the university level, both English and Spanish are used.

As a territory of the United States, the country has a good system of education, and the overall literacy rate was 98.85% in 2010. Schooling is mandatory between the ages of 6 and 17, which comprises the elementary, intermediate and high school grades. According to the 2010 Census, 60.0% of the population attained a high school degree or higher level of education.

Technology is more widely available at the country's higher education institutions and despite the overall good education system, the access to information technology is fairly limited in most primary and secondary school districts.

This scenario worsens in rural schools. The increased participation in classes is a concern for teachers, who struggle to reduce the dropout rate that, in rural areas is high.

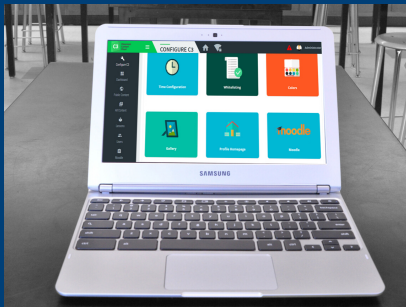
VALUE PROPOSITION:

- Internet access gateway
- Local content repository
- Easy to use
- Low maintenance technology
- Low power consumption equipment

1,072 students already benefitted from the implementation of C3 Micro-Cloud in GEE0's schools in Puerto Rico and they took advantage of internet-based content and curriculum as key tools for their learning process.

Currently C3 Micro-Clouds are also being used with an adult program with an enrollment of 344 students.

C3 Micro-Clouds are also allowing Puerto Rico's teachers to easily plan lessons, with instant access to a wide variety of rich content right in the classroom. They can save time and improve the teaching process.



In Puerto Rico students learn now in ways that better prepare them for higher education, improving their skills such as critical thinking, creativity or problem solving.

In 2016 Critical Links and Global Education Exchange Opportunities (GEE0) established a partnership and a set of C3 Micro-Cloud appliances were sent to be installed at their schools. GEE0 is a corporation established in Puerto Rico in 2008. They are dedicated to identifying and developing the best educational and managerial practices worldwide and try to encourage the use of those with potential to improve academic and socioeconomic development. Their schools are mainly located in Puerto Rico's rural areas, and in some of them the internet availability is sporadic at best affecting the way lessons are structured and delivered.

We had the opportunity to speak with GEE0's Academic Director, Claribel Reyes, who told us how C3 Micro-Clouds are changing students' and teachers' lives: "Before using the C3 Micro-Cloud the Internet often did not work. Teachers worked in their homes to bring material to the classroom and students could not use technology tools in the classrooms".

"The integration of the C3 Micro-Cloud in the classroom gives teachers the opportunity to reduce the time spent on locating instructional material for their classes, exam correction and planning," said Claribel. She also referred that sometimes they do online tests with automatically gradable forms, saving time for other classroom activities.

Teachers are one of the key factors in students' success. They are in a constant search for new methods and mechanisms to make their classes more engaging and dynamic. It's very important to attract good teachers, and to provide them the right tools that help guarantee their permanence, especially in the rural schools.

Claribel also said that "C3 Micro-Cloud is a viable alternative to integrate technology in the classrooms, to improving communication and students' management skills. In addition, it contributes to improving teachers' and students' motivation. As for students, it has had a positive impact since it provides them with a more dynamic way of learning."

Puerto Rico's future will depend on the way and manner its young students are educated today, and the use of technology has the power to improve their skills and knowledge. It's important to give students, mainly in rural schools, similar educational conditions to those who study in urban areas and prepare them for the reality they will face if they proceed to higher studies.

Using technology in classrooms is an excellent way to achieve those goals and to capture students' interest, helping them to develop all the skills they need to succeed. In Puerto Rico students learn now in ways that better prepare them for higher education, improving skills such as critical thinking, creativity or problem solving.

Together, we are preparing Puerto Rico's students for their future!

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