



Illustrative image. Autism Inspired Academy is a nonprofit K to 12 school in Clearwater, Florida, for students with autism and other exceptional abilities.

EDU-01 • EDUCATION

Nonprofit autism school scales IT and security through 3x enrollment growth

Z7 Solutions™ replaced a reactive MSP at Autism Inspired Academy with managed IT, single sign-on and a 24/7 human-led SOC. Its IT and security scaled from about 40 to more than 120 students without major outages.

CLIENT

Autism Inspired Academy, Clearwater, Florida
Education

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Orlando, Florida

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01

At a glance

PROFILE	DETAIL
CLIENT	Autism Inspired Academy, Clearwater, Florida
SECTOR	Education
ENGAGEMENT	Managed IT services (MSP), ongoing
SERVICES	Managed IT services and help desk • Hybrid cloud integration • Identity and access management • vCTO and vCISO advisory • Device and classroom modernization • 24/7 human-led SOC and endpoint protection • HIPAA and FIPA compliance alignment

THE CLIENT

Autism Inspired Academy is a nonprofit K to 12 school in Clearwater, Florida, serving students with autism and other exceptional abilities. Its mission is to provide specialized, inclusive education and help students build lives of meaning, purpose, and joy. The school runs Google for Education alongside Microsoft 365 and Azure, with student Chromebooks and staff Windows 11 devices.

HEADLINE RESULTS

3x

Enrollment growth supported, about 40 to 120+ students

225_{hours}

Staff time reclaimed per school year (modeled)

\$9,000

Staff value reclaimed per year (modeled)

2_{to} 1

Primary login systems for most daily work

02

The challenge

When Autism Inspired Academy partnered with Z7 Solutions, its prior managed services provider could not keep pace with a period of rapid enrollment growth.

- IT support was largely reactive, and leadership lacked operational metrics on uptime, incident trends, and security posture.
- Google for Education and Microsoft 365 and Azure were managed in silos, so staff and students juggled multiple logins and the school had less control over access.
- When the partnership began, the school served about 40 students on a limited number of devices, and rapid enrollment growth was adding endpoints, accounts, and cloud services without a matching increase in security controls or monitoring.
- Expectations around cybersecurity and data privacy were rising for a vulnerable student population and the family data that comes with it.
- The school needed enterprise-grade reliability, security, and strategic guidance without building a full internal IT and security department.



Illustrative image. Classroom devices and cloud platforms had to keep up as enrollment tripled.

03

What we did

01 Take over managed services

Z7 replaced the underperforming MSP and took responsibility for help desk and infrastructure support across cloud and on premises systems, with clear SLAs and reporting. Standardized ticketing, prioritization, and change processes gave leadership visibility into recurring issues, resolution times, and capacity needs.

02 Unify Google and Microsoft clouds

Z7 built a unified cloud architecture where Google Classroom, Docs, and Chromebooks work coherently alongside Microsoft email, identity, and productivity tools. Governance keeps security, configuration, and lifecycle management consistent across both ecosystems.

03 Consolidate to one primary login

Microsoft credentials became the primary identity source, and users sign into Google Cloud with those credentials through single sign-on, cutting primary login systems from two to one for most daily work. This reduced password sprawl and tightened control over who can access which systems and from where, which is critical in an environment serving students with autism, where routine and simplicity support independence.



Single sign-on made Microsoft credentials the primary login for Google and Microsoft tools.

03

What we did, continued

04 Modernize devices and classrooms

Z7 centralized configuration, patching, and policy enforcement for student Chromebooks and staff Windows devices. All staff devices now run Windows 11. Remote monitoring and management added proactive health checks, automated updates, and alerting to catch issues before they disrupt classrooms.

05 Layer human-led, AI-powered security

A 24/7 human-led SOC, powered by AIXDR and following FedRAMP-aligned processes, continuously monitors cloud, identity, email, and endpoints, with analysts validating and containing what automation surfaces. SentinelOne endpoint protection, AI-powered email security, AI-driven cyber awareness training, and vulnerability management and network scanning complete the stack.

06 Add vCTO, vCISO and compliance

Z7 provides ongoing vCTO roadmap and investment guidance and vCISO security strategy aligned with HIPAA, FIPA, and Zero Trust principles. Strong identity and access controls, enhanced logging, monitoring, and incident response playbooks, plus supporting documentation and processes, help the school demonstrate compliance readiness during audits or investigations.



Illustrative image. Result: a connected, continuously monitored classroom environment that scaled without major outages.

Results

The environment absorbed roughly three times enrollment growth in under two years without major outages, platform swaps, or emergency rebuilds, and IT became a strategic partner for leadership.

3x

Enrollment growth supported, about 40 to 120+ students

225 hours

Staff time reclaimed per school year (modeled)

\$9,000

Staff value reclaimed per year (modeled)

2 to 1

Primary login systems for most daily work

- IT and security scaled from about 40 to more than 120 students without major re-architecture.
- SLA-backed managed services, single sign-on, and standardized endpoint management reduced downtime, login problems, and classroom disruptions. Teachers and staff report fewer technology fires and more time to focus on students.
- A conservative model of about 25 staff each saving about 3 minutes per school day over about 180 school days puts reclaimed time at about 225 hours, or about 9,000 dollars at 40 dollars per hour fully loaded, each year. This does not include additional savings from reduced downtime or avoided incidents.
- A 24/7 human-led SOC with AIXDR, plus SentinelOne, AI-powered email security, and AI-driven training, forms a layered defense that lowers the likelihood and impact of incidents exposing student or family data.
- HIPAA and FIPA aligned safeguards, documentation, and incident response workflows let leadership demonstrate due diligence to boards, regulators, and families.
- Executive leadership receives proactive vCTO and vCISO guidance, and IT is now viewed as a strategic partner instead of a recurring problem.

05

Technology

Google for Education

Google Workspace

Google Classroom

Chromebooks

Microsoft 365

Azure

Microsoft Entra ID (Azure AD)

Windows 11

SentinelOne

AIXDR

ITSM platform

Remote monitoring and management

Centralized logging and reporting

AI-powered email security

AI-driven cyber awareness training

Vulnerability management and network scanning

Zero Trust framework

06 • NEXT STEP

Put the same team on your environment

Tell us what you are running and what has to change. The engineers behind this work will map the first steps with you.

RELATED SERVICES

Managed IT

Managed detection and response

Unified endpoint management

Education IT and security

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