

# Mississippi Department of Education Switches to OpenDNS from Websense for 151 School Districts

*State DOE Finds OpenDNS Outperforms Websense in Blocking P2P Traffic, Saves the State Thousands While Meeting All Web Content Filtering Needs*



## Organization Snapshot

**Mississippi DOE Headquarters:**  
Jackson, MS

**School Districts:**  
151

**Using OpenDNS for:**  
Web content filtering, P2P traffic blocking, anti-phishing, remote management, faster and more reliable DNS.

## The Problem

**Faced with tough-to-meet IT budgets during unstable economic times, Mississippi Department of Education finds Websense too expensive and unsatisfactory at blocking P2P traffic.**

The Mississippi Department of Education is responsible for overseeing all technology and education purchasing decisions made by the state public school system. After reviewing annual IT budget, coupled with Web content filtering needs, the DOE technology staff deemed Websense both far too expensive and an unsatisfactory solution for Web content filtering and blocking bandwidth-consuming and non-educational P2P traffic.

DOE technology staff immediately began exploring alternatives to Websense, which requires an on-site appliance at all school locations.

## The Solution

**Deploy OpenDNS across all 151 state school districts through the cloud with ease. Secure the Internet, increase network performance, and effectively block P2P traffic once and for all.**

Technology staff discovered OpenDNS and learned they could deploy the service across all school district locations in a matter of hours. Further, the service works through the cloud so there would be no need for an appliance to deploy and maintain at each site.

Since switching to OpenDNS from Websense, the DOE has reported a marked improvement in Web content filtering accuracy and the effective blocking of P2P sites. Staff reports using OpenDNS has cut down on the amount of traffic generated by its network by as much as 40 percent. Further, the switch to OpenDNS has saved the DOE thousands of dollars in annual budget.

## What They're Saying

"Using OpenDNS has cut down on the amount of traffic generated by our networks by as much as 40 percent. OpenDNS's increased performance when dealing with thousands of queries has been well worth the switch from Websense, in addition to the cost savings it represents. DNS systems are the hinges that the doors of the Internet swing on and OpenDNS provides us with an additional layer to help keep kids safe and on task."

– **Wade Grant**  
Senior Network Specialist  
Mississippi DOE

## More About the Mississippi Department of Education

The Mississippi Department of Education is responsible for overseeing all educational decisions made by the public school system in Mississippi. The Department of Education contains the Office of Educational Accountability, the Office of Student Performance, the Office of Instructional Programs and Services, and the Office of Legislation and Budget. The Mississippi Department of Education's mission is to provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community.



OpenDNS is the world's leading provider of Internet navigation and security services that make networks safer, faster, smarter and more reliable. Through DNS resolution, cloud-based Web content filtering and security services, OpenDNS empowers millions of households, schools and businesses to control how users navigate the Internet on their network, while dramatically increasing the network's overall performance and reliability.

For more information please visit: [www.opendns.com](http://www.opendns.com)