

Virtual Servers

An area where Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been able to realize a significant cost savings is in the area of virtualization. Virtualization is the process of taking a physical server or desktop computer and duplicating or replacing it with a virtual version of it. Multiple virtual devices can be run on a single virtual hosting server, reducing the space and power consumption of multiple devices, along with a potential reduction in software license requirements and a reduced overall hardware cost for the hosting server.

Beginning in 2007, the District has realized a savings of approximately \$5.7 by replacing core physical servers with virtual devices...this cost savings takes into account hardware cost alone, and does not quantify savings in the area of power, licensing, and support. After the success of this initiative, ITS began to expand virtualization to school sites as well. Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, virtualization at school sites has netted approximately \$457,000 in savings.

	Enterprise	Schools	Total
Actual server cost (virtual environment)	\$3,684,185	\$132,000	\$3,816,186
Proposed server cost (if there was no virtualization)	\$9,417,800	\$325,000	\$9,742,800
Savings	\$5,733,614	\$457,000	\$6,190,614