

How a Network Upgrade Strengthened Learning and Safety

When South Florida Autism Charter School outgrew its consumer-grade network, i-Tech Support delivered a secure Cisco Meraki infrastructure that keeps classrooms connected and safety systems always online.



OVERVIEW

For South Florida Autism Charter School (SFACS), reliable connectivity is essential to daily learning and campus safety. As enrollment expanded and digital tools became central to instruction, the school's existing network could no longer keep pace. Coverage gaps, instability, and limited capacity disrupted classrooms and affected communication and security systems.

SFACS partnered with i-Tech Support to implement a full Cisco Meraki network refresh—replacing an unreliable environment with a scalable, secure foundation designed for both learning and safety.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Located in Hialeah, Florida, South Florida Autism Charter School serves more than 400 students and employs approximately 150 staff. The nonprofit charter school focuses on individualized education programs that emphasize communication, social development, and life skills for students on the autism spectrum.

Dependable technology underpins nearly every aspect of the school's mission—from interactive instruction to campus-wide communication and security monitoring.

THE CHALLENGE

SFACS relied on consumer-grade switches and access points intended for small offices.

As enrollment grew and device counts increased, the network struggled to support demand.

Key challenges included:

- Coverage gaps across classrooms and hallways
- Network instability affecting learning tools, phones, and cameras
- Limited capacity, with only 17 access points serving 400+ users
- No scalable foundation to support campus expansion

The school needed a professional-grade solution that could deliver reliability, security, and room to grow.





THE SOLUTION

i-Tech Support designed and deployed a complete Cisco Meraki network refresh, replacing all consumer-grade equipment with enterprise-class infrastructure.

The upgrade included:



12 Cisco Meraki switches for backbone connectivity and traffic control



49 Meraki access points (up from 17) for full campus coverage



Low-voltage cabling upgrades to improve throughput and reliability



Network segmentation and redundancy to enhance uptime and security

Using Meraki's cloud-based dashboard, SFACS gained real-time visibility into network performance, user activity, and security—while simplifying day-to-day management.

IMPLEMENTATION

To minimize disruption, i-Tech scheduled installation over a Friday-to-Sunday weekend. Legacy equipment was removed, new switches and access points were installed, and connectivity was validated across classrooms, offices, and outdoor areas.

From project approval to final cutover, the entire deployment was completed within one month.

QUICK FACTS

- **Client:** South Florida Autism Charter School (SFACS)
- **Industry:** Education / Special Needs Charter
- **Location:** Hialeah, Florida
- **Students / Staff:** 400+ / 150
- **Partner:** i-Tech Support Services
- **Technology:** Cisco Meraki switches, access points, cloud dashboard
- **Deployment:** Weekend installation
- **Result:** Reliable, scalable, secure campus-wide connectivity

THE RESULTS

The upgraded network delivered immediate and measurable improvements:



Reliable Coverage

Dead zones were eliminated, providing consistent, high-speed connectivity throughout the campus.



Improved Communication and Safety

VoIP phone systems and IP-based security cameras now operate reliably, supporting uninterrupted communication and monitoring.



Simplified IT Management

IT staff can monitor performance, enforce policies, and resolve issues remotely through the Meraki dashboard.



Scalable Foundation

The network supports future growth, with new access points or switches easily added as needs evolve.

Downtime incidents and user complaints have virtually disappeared, allowing staff to focus on students—not troubleshooting.