



# From Disposable to Durable: Equipping 7,000 Students with Solutions That Last

“We have a 1:1 iPad program for students in grades 4 through 12. This ensures equity in the sense that everyone has a device.”

- ADAM KEMP, MANAGER OF INFORMATION SERVICES

## Overview

District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1) is a K-12 board spanning 490 KM across Northern Ontario, Canada, serving more than 7,000 students and 1,700 staff across 35 school locations and two board offices. Dedicated to providing students with tools for the working world, the district operates a 1:1 iPad program for students in grades 4 through 12 to ensure every student has equitable access to a device. Elementary and secondary teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants, principals, and vice principals are also all equipped with iPads, while students in grades 1 through 3 have a shared iPad for every two students. To support this extensive digital learning initiative, DSB1 required high-quality, durable technology companions that could withstand classroom rigor and provide long-term value.

<b>EVALUATION SITES</b>	<a href="#">K-12 Schools in Ontario North East District</a> <a href="#">District School Board Ontario North East</a>
<b>INDUSTRY</b>	Education
<b>LOCATION</b>	Ontario, Canada
<b>SOLUTIONS</b>	<a href="#">Rugged Combo 4 Touch</a> <a href="#">Zone Learn wired headset</a> <a href="#">Brio 4K webcam</a>
<b>DEVICES</b>	Apple iPad

# Challenge

DSB1 faced a two-pronged challenge in equipping its students with essential technology peripherals: device protection and product longevity.

**1** First for their iPads, the district required keyboard cases that were durable, provided critical drop protection, and were highly functional. Critically, the keyboards needed to stand up to heavy daily usage. It was also essential that the keyboards were able to use Apple's SmartConnector technology to eliminate reliance on batteries and problematic Bluetooth pairing.

**2** Second, the district needed a sustainable audio solution. Previously, inexpensive, disposable headphones were purchased, but they lasted only about two years. To maintain student hygiene, teachers were putting used headsets into individual baggies and moving them up with the students to the next grade. This highlighted the need to invest more in high-quality, durable 1:1 headsets intended to last three or more years.

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"We recognized that we would need to purchase keyboard cases for the students and staff. These keyboard cases need to be durable and also protect the iPad from drops. They also couldn't have batteries or a reliance on Bluetooth pairing."

- ADAM KEMP, MANAGER OF INFORMATION SERVICES

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"We previously purchased inexpensive sets of headphones that would be assigned to a class for years. As they broke we purchased new ones. We found out that teachers were assigning the headsets to their students and the headphones followed the students to the next grade. Because of this, we decided to spend more money on better quality and more durable headsets so they could follow the students through their elementary career."

- ADAM KEMP, MANAGER OF INFORMATION SERVICES



# Solution

DSB1 chose Logitech solutions for their brand recognition, durability, and key features that align with the district's equity and longevity goals.



## Rugged Combo 4 Touch

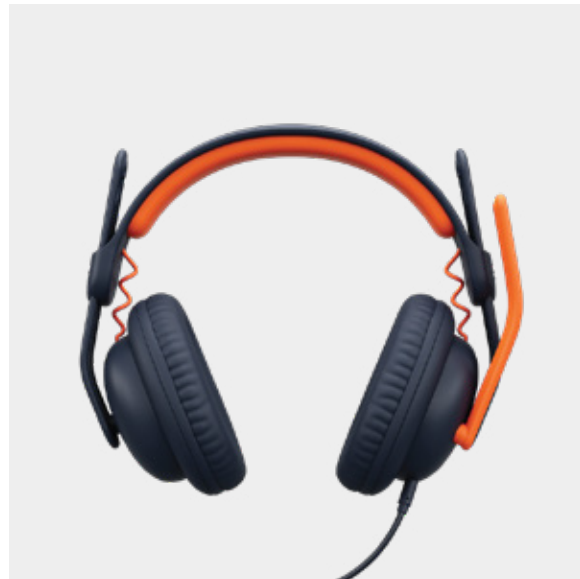
The district implemented the Rugged Combo 4 Touch keyboard cases for students, prioritizing drop protection and a reliable keyboard. The cases connect via SmartConnector, ensuring consistent, reliable power and connectivity without batteries or Bluetooth.

Keyboard cases for iPad enable students to interact and learn in new ways while ensuring their devices remain protected. Rugged Combo 4 Touch gives students the power to engage with content holistically through four use modes: Type, Sketch, Read, and View. Adding a keyboard to an iPad makes it easier for students to type, interact with apps, and take notes.

## Zone Learn headset

The district invested in the higher-quality, over-the-ear Zone Learn headsets for 1:1 use by students in grades 4 and up, with the expectation they would last 3+ years. The solution's design includes key features like a detachable cord, allowing the district to upgrade the connection (e.g., from AUX to USB-C) without replacing the entire headset.

With swappable and upgradable over-ear and on-ear pads and different input options, Zone Learn seamlessly integrates into every school's technological ecosystem and provides a longer lifespan in the classroom.



## Brio 4K

To support the geographically widespread staff, Logitech webcams were deployed for managers and principals, enabling fast and convenient Windows Hello multi-factor authentication logins.

Brio 4K webcam, crafted for professional performance, elevates video collaboration. Ultra 4K HD captures every detail with stunning resolution and color, as RightLight 3 and High Dynamic Range (HDR) technologies auto-adjust to help you look your best in any lighting environment. Enjoy ultra-smooth asynchronous sharing and recording at up to 90 fps for fluid streaming.

# Results

By partnering with Logitech, DSB1 successfully delivered high-quality, durable, and reliable technology, reducing support issues and maximizing the lifespan of their devices.

## ✔ Durability and cost-efficiency

The focus on quality resulted in significant early returns on investment. Adam Kemp noted that for the Zone Learn headsets, “None have broken this year and we use them daily, which is great!”. The team reported hearing “no news is good news,” indicating the products are performing reliably and minimizing the need for replacements.

## ✔ Longevity and sustainability

The detachable cord on the Zone Learn headsets supports a multi-year refresh cycle, enabling the district to simply replace the cord as charging standards change, preventing headsets from prematurely ending up in landfills. The continually improving durability of the Rugged Combo cases has led to “less frequent” iPad breakages.

## ✔ Student focus and comfort

The over-the-ear design of the Zone Learn Headsets aids in student concentration. “The noise cancelling feature is phenomenal for helping students stay focused on tasks”. Students themselves reported the headsets are “comfortable to wear, not sore on the ears or head,” and have “Great sound”. The over-the-ear cups also provide a calming, sensory tool even when not connected.

## ✔ Ease of management

The Rugged Combo’s SmartConnector design and the improved durability of both the keyboards (now with sealed keys) and the headsets have reduced technician time spent on repairs and troubleshooting. “Since it is so easy to operate, support calls for the product from the end users to the support team should be minimal”.

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“The noise-cancelling feature is phenomenal for helping students stay focused on tasks.”

- DSB1 TEACHER

“I would for sure recommend the Rugged Combo case. In addition to having the functionality of the keyboard and the SmartConnect, you have the drop protection as well, which is really good.”

- ADAM KEMP,  
MANAGER OF INFORMATION SERVICES