



# SonicWall Secure SD-Branch for Schools

School Campuses Reimagined Securely

## ABSTRACT

*SonicWall SD-Branch reinvents branch connectivity. SonicWall SD-Branch solution provides security and improves user experience at branch campuses through an integrated platform that combines SD-LAN, SD-WAN and security for distributed school systems. This platform enables branch locations to take advantage of cheaper connectivity to connect main campuses and branches, enable BYOD, adopt SaaS applications and scale easily with the rise in mobile devices. SD-Branch enables these schools to be deployed swiftly with Zero-Touch Deployment and delivers unified visibility and threat detection from a single pane of glass. It is an end-to-end security solution that simplifies deployment, management and troubleshooting.*

## Introduction

Traditional methods of deploying and maintaining security at branch sites have become ineffective, expensive and unmanageable. School districts struggle with securing several distributed school campuses due to increased exposure points, limited resources and rising costs. This all contributes to a growing cybersecurity business gap.

To complicate the situation further, K-12 schools are faced with an increasing number of students, dispersed classrooms, constrained resources and reduced budgets,

leading to more network, mobility and security challenges than ever before — all while cyber threats grow more advanced by the day.

To deliver safe in-class and distance-learning experiences to a growing student population, K-12 schools need to secure wireless networks, cloud apps and endpoints while stretching budgets through various funding initiatives.

SonicWall sees SD-Branch as a cornerstone of boundless cybersecurity for the hyper-distributed education era. An effective solution combines the agility of SD-Branch with end-to-end security, network segmentation and compliance. This enables unified policies across the network ecosystem, providing granular security controls to identify and prevent today's stealthiest never-before-seen attacks from compromising your network.

## The SonicWall SD-Branch Solution

Evolution of technology at the school is essential. With digital transformation, traditional schools cannot keep up with increasing demands from multiplying mobile and IoT devices, driving increased adoption of cloud and SaaS applications. The increase in data demands more MPLS bandwidth. In conjunction, providing the necessary bandwidth over legacy WAN technologies is expensive and hard to roll out without on-site personnel.

With the proliferation of devices, management and security becomes a challenge. These devices need different policies, and having a unified policy across your LAN and WAN becomes critical for enforcement and visibility. Managing all this from a single pane of glass is necessary to further provide rich analytics and real-time stats.

As cloud adoption picks up, WAN connectivity across schools must be redesigned intelligently so as to prioritize cheaper internet links over more expensive MPLS links. This can be done with SD-WAN technology, which brings about operational agility and cost savings. This technology allows large school districts with distributed school locations to build highly available and higher-performance WANs. By using low-cost internet access (broadband, 5G), schools can cost-effectively replace expensive WAN connection technologies such as MPLS using SD-WAN.

Identifying and proactively preventing advanced threats at the gateway is essential to ensure security of the school system. Next-generation firewalls with advanced threat protection secure your school districts from the most deadly attacks. Ensure these firewalls can provide real-time detection and prevention to maintain a strong security posture. Combine the next-gen firewalls with secure wireless access points to create a unified solution that protects network and data from the latest threats over both wired and wireless connections. The clients connecting to these secure networks can further be protected by installing endpoint clients on them. With roll-back capability, these endpoints can be restored to their original state in case of compromise. Further, cloud apps can be secured with Cloud App Security. As a result, the solution provides complete, end-to-end security.

K-12 schools can rapidly deploy and roll out these devices with Zero-Touch Deployment capability, eliminating or reducing the need for IT personnel to visit multiple branch locations to configure and deploy these solutions. This streamlines into Single Pane of Glass (SPOG) management of all devices including support services from a single vendor.

The solution elements consist of SPOG management with Zero-Touch Deployment capability, next-generation firewalls with Secure SD-WAN, switches, access points, endpoint and cloud app security. When network requirements change, any of the solution elements can be upgraded or downgraded accordingly. With the flexibility that Software Defined-Branch (SD-Branch) offers, schools can be more secure, agile, seamless and cloud-centric.

**SD-Branch market to grow at  
33.5% compound  
annual growth rate  
until 2030**

*Source: digitaljournal.com*

### **Unified Security Posture**

Purchasing an end-to-end security solution simplifies deployment, management and troubleshooting. It further enables schools to pass compliance checks and reduce operational costs. The SD-Branch solution unifies elements.

It is ideal for distributed school networks where firewall and wireless access points can be bundled, extending the security of the wired network to wireless. Security can be further extended to end devices that are connecting to the network with endpoint security.

### **Cloud Management**

SonicWall Network Security Manager (NSM) scales with your business and your security needs. From a single console, orchestrate all firewall operations, see hidden risks, discover misconfigured policies, and make compliance easier with a full audit trail. With a SonicWall NSM, centralize firewall management and gain more capability, not more complexity.

### **Zero-Touch Deployment (ZTD)**

Quickly scale the SD-Branch solution globally across hundreds of school locations with ZTD and cloud management. SonicWall ZTD allows schools to quickly and securely configure firewalls, switches and APs at new locations without requiring advanced and costly on-site personnel. Once new products are brought online in remote locations, administrators can manage local and distributed networks through CSC.

### **Secure SD-WAN**

SD-WAN transforms the WAN edge at the branch. SonicWall delivers comprehensive, industry-leading security solutions that simplify SD-WAN deployments. Our Secure SD-WAN technology is built into SonicOS, the operating system for SonicWall next-generation firewalls, so there's no need to purchase separate and costly SD-WAN appliances and licenses. The Secure SD-WAN solution incorporates multi-WAN transport, load balancing, dynamic path selection, advanced routing, and much more.

## Next-generation Firewalls

SonicWall next-generation firewalls offer real-time, automated threat prevention in superior hardware and virtual platforms. These next-generation firewalls have earned industry recognitions and awards. They are specially designed to combat advanced threats with award-winning multi-engine sandboxing and other advanced threat prevention technologies.

## Network Access Switches

SonicWall network access switches provide seamless integration and management with SonicWall security solutions. They provide true Zero-Touch Deployment and provisioning capability along with segmentation, security and compliance. They are available in seven models, offering a variety of switch port and PoE options.

## Secure Wi-Fi

SonicWave 600 series wireless access points (APs) are built on the latest 802.11ax technology to enhance the Wi-Fi user experience and provide advanced security on

the network — even where firewalls are not deployed. The SonicWave 600 series APs are cloud-managed, while the 400 series APs add firewall management capability. Wireless expansion at any location is achieved instantaneously using Zero-Touch Deployment and mesh technology. Indoor and ruggedized outdoor models are available.

## Endpoint Security

SonicWall Capture Client delivers endpoint security. This unified endpoint client platform provides multiple endpoint protection capabilities, including next-generation malware protection, support for visibility into encrypted traffic and rollback protection.

## Cloud App Security (CAS)

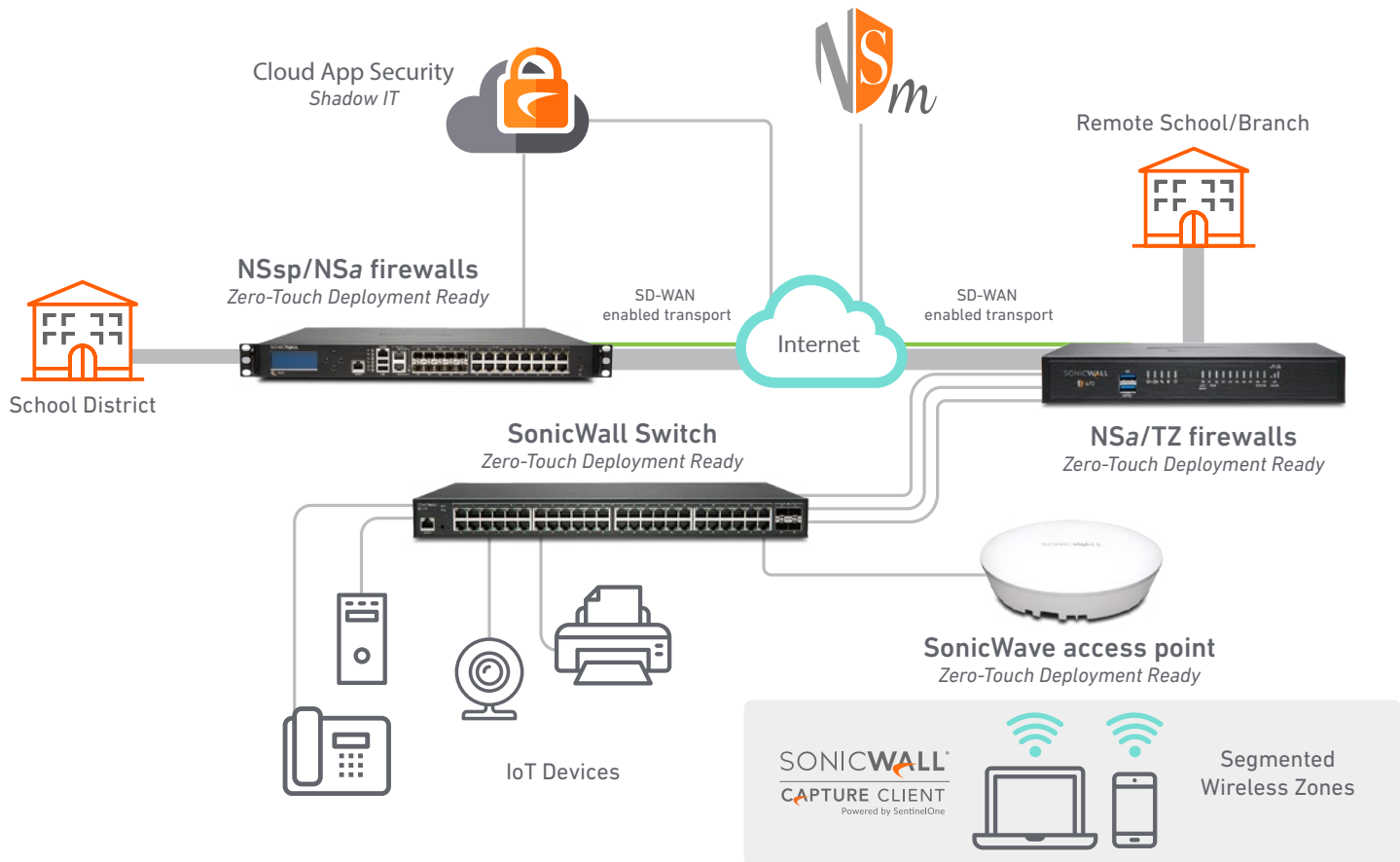
The data of the users within cloud applications is further protected with CAS, which provides next-gen cloud app security for email, messaging, file sharing, file storage, etc. This enables organizations adopting SaaS applications to deliver a seamless user experience and best-in-class security with SonicWall CAS.





## Single-Pane-of-Glass Management

Cloud-Based



Learn more about SonicWall Secure SD-Branch [here](#).

## About SonicWall

SonicWall delivers Boundless Cybersecurity for the hyper-distributed era and a work reality where everyone is remote, mobile and unsecure. By knowing the unknown, providing real-time visibility and enabling breakthrough economics, SonicWall closes the cybersecurity business gap for enterprises, governments and SMBs worldwide. For more information, visit [www.sonicwall.com](http://www.sonicwall.com).

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Refer to our website for additional information.

[www.sonicwall.com](http://www.sonicwall.com)

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