



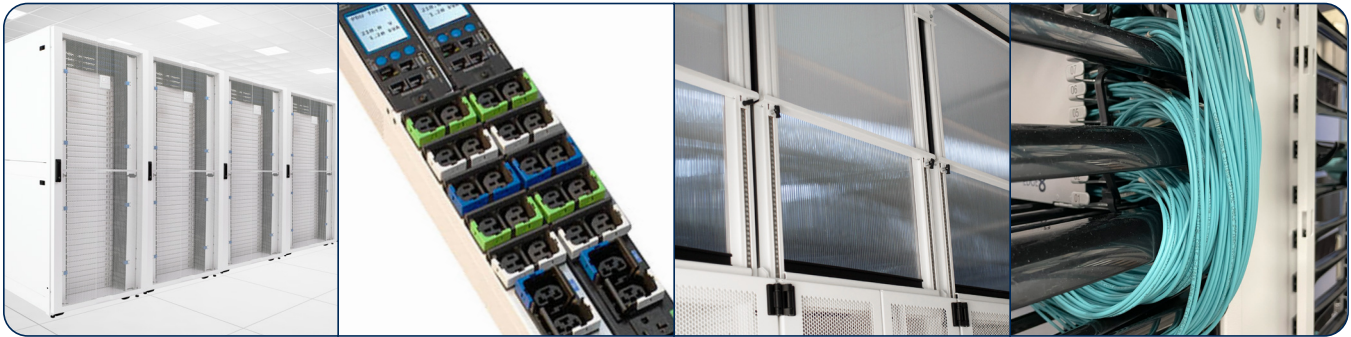
From Grocery Store to Modern Data Center: Pflugerville ISD Builds a Showcase Facility Designed for Efficiency, Flexibility and Growth



When Pflugerville Independent School District (ISD) acquired a former Albertsons grocery store years ago, the district initially viewed the property as an opportunity to gain much-needed operational space. What emerged over time was something much larger: a multi-purpose facility designed to support professional development, collaboration, and a modernized IT infrastructure strategy for the district.

At the center of that vision is a new purpose-built data center featuring the CPI ZetaFrame® Cabinet System, custom eConnect® PDUs, Elevate™ Adjustable Containment Solution, cable management, and supporting infrastructure designed to deliver both operational efficiency and visual impact.

The result is a modern showcase environment that supports district-wide connectivity while helping position Pflugerville ISD for future growth.



ZetaFrame® Cabinet System

*eConnect® PDU with
QuadLock Outlets*

*Elevate™ Adjustable
Containment Solution*

Cable Management

A Smarter Alternative to New Construction

The district had long planned for a secondary data center after passing a bond initiative years earlier. Rather than constructing an entirely new building, Pflugerville ISD leveraged an existing 55,000-square-foot property adjacent to the high school and administration facilities.

Repurposing the building provided significant advantages.

“It was easier than building from the ground up,” explained Victor Valdez, Chief Operations Officer, Pflugerville ISD. “We were able to move much faster by retrofitting the space, and because we saved money on the building itself, we could invest more into the infrastructure.”

The facility, titled the Learning and Technology Center, now serves multiple purposes across the district, including office space, conference and professional development areas, and the new data center that supports connectivity across more than 35 district buildings.

Unlike the district’s previous data center, the new environment was intentionally designed from the beginning to support redundancy, airflow management, scalability, and operational flexibility.

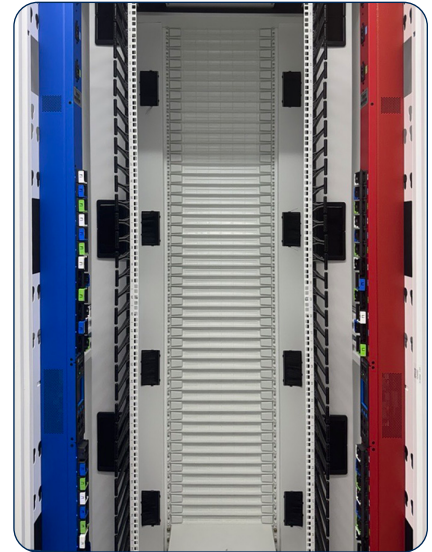


Creating a Data Center Worth Showcasing

For Valdez, functionality was critical, but aesthetics mattered too.

The district wanted to create a space that employees, visitors and other school districts could experience firsthand. Glass walls surrounding the data center allow visitors to see directly into the environment, highlighting the clean rows of white cabinets, contained hot aisles and integrated lighting.

“We wanted it to be a showpiece,” said Valdez. “A place people would want to work in and a place we could proudly show to other districts.”



That vision influenced nearly every design decision throughout the project.

Pflugerville ISD selected the [ZetaFrame® Cabinet System](#) in white paired with clear containment panels to create a modern, high-visibility environment that aligned with the architectural feel of the larger facility. Custom red and blue [eConnect® PDU](#)s were incorporated to reflect the district's school colors, while integrated storage drawers and cable management solutions helped maximize space utilization inside the contained rows.

The district also deployed 52 RMU, 8-foot-tall cabinets to optimize vertical space within the retrofit environment without expanding the room footprint.

Solving Retrofit Challenges Through Customization

Transforming a former grocery store into a functional, efficient data center came with unique challenges. Structural beams, uneven flooring, and changing site conditions required the infrastructure design to adapt throughout deployment.

*“One of the biggest things for us was customization.
Other manufacturers felt very standard.
CPI showed us how flexible their solutions could be.”*

Victor Valdez, Chief Operations Officer, Pflugerville ISD

During planning, a structural pillar was discovered directly in the middle of the proposed cabinet row near the facility's glass viewing wall. CPI worked closely with the district to reconfigure cabinet placement while still maintaining service clearances and preserving the overall visual design.

Later in the project, the team encountered another challenge when slight floor slope variations impacted cabinet door alignment. CPI modified and reshaped cabinet doors to properly fit the environment and maintain the clean visual appearance the district wanted.

Without that flexibility, the district may have needed to remove walls and redesign portions of the space entirely, adding both cost and schedule delays to the project.

“CPI stayed involved through every phase of the project. They helped us solve problems as they came up, instead of telling us we were stuck with standard options.”

Victor Valdez, Chief Operations Officer, Pflugerville ISD

Improving Efficiency and Redundancy

The new environment also represents a major operational improvement over the district's previous data center.

Previously, thermal management relied largely on pushing more air into the room without true containment or optimized airflow management. The new data center now features [CPI's Elevate™ Adjustable Containment Solution](#), creating a fully contained hot aisle strategy designed to direct heat efficiently, improve airflow separation, and help maintain stable operating temperatures throughout the environment. The adaptable containment design also helped the district accommodate unique retrofit conditions within the former retail space while supporting a clean, modern aesthetic.

“The old environment treated thermal management as more of an afterthought,” explained Valdez. “Now we’re putting the right air in the right place.”



The contained design improves cooling efficiency while helping reduce operational costs and support future scalability.

The district also significantly improved redundancy.

Pflugerville ISD's previous environment lacked the level of resiliency needed to fully protect district operations. During earlier infrastructure work at the old facility, outages impacted network operations for one to two days across the district.

Today, the new data center serves as the district's primary environment while the original site remains in place as a redundant secondary location.

“That redundancy is huge for us,” said Valdez. “Our entire district depends on the network being available.”

Built With Intention

For Pflugerville ISD, the project became more than a data center upgrade.

It became an opportunity to create a modern, intentional environment that supports technology, collaboration and long-term operational goals across the district.

“This facility was purpose-built,” said Valdez. “It works extremely well, but it also looks clean, modern and efficient. People immediately notice it when they walk by.”

By combining customized infrastructure solutions with hands-on collaboration throughout the retrofit process, Pflugerville ISD transformed an existing retail space into a future-ready environment designed to serve the district for years to come.



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