

Support Assistive Listening Using Extron Classroom AV Systems

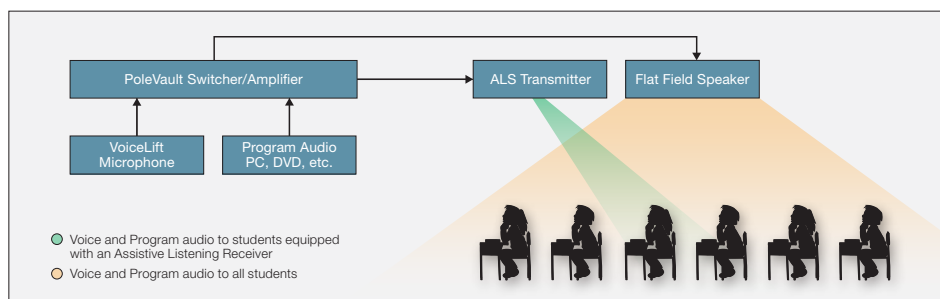
Students with hearing aids typically have the greatest success in quiet environments. However, background noise, echo, and distance issues that are associated with many classrooms make it challenging for these students to hear and comprehend instruction. Assistive Listening Devices are designed to address such issues. Today's most prevalent assistive listening systems use wireless technology to ensure the student can hear the teacher's voice. The teacher typically wears a microphone and transmitter that wirelessly transmits her voice directly to any student wearing a receiver. While this is a great way for hearing-impaired students to hear the teacher, other challenges arise when additional classroom technology is considered.



Problem 1: With the increased use of technology, including multimedia PC's, DVD players, and streaming devices, there are more audio sources in the classroom than just the teacher's voice. Can this material be provided to students who use assistive listening systems?

Problem 2: Studies show that all students can benefit from evenly distributing the teacher's voice throughout the room with what is called sound field voice amplification. However, this system is separate from the assistive listening system. Is there a solution where the teacher only needs to wear a single wireless microphone / transmitter?

Fortunately, with Extron's classroom AV systems the answer to both questions is YES! PoleVault® and WallVault® systems include an integrated switcher/amplifier that receives, mixes, and distributes all audio signals, and speakers that evenly distribute the sound throughout the classroom. A unique feature of this switcher/amplifier is its line level output, which passes all audio to another system, such as the transmitter of an assistive listening system. The audio on this output is the same heard through the classroom's speakers. Adding the VoiceLift® Microphone to a PoleVault or WallVault classroom system benefits all students by creating a sound field that allows the teacher's voice to be heard evenly throughout the room.



All students benefit from being able to hear the teacher clearly.