



CASE STUDY

# California school district sticks with proven email security.

Turlock Unified School District relies on Barracuda even as email threats and protections evolve.

## Customer

- Regional California school district
- 15 schools and five auxiliary offices
- Approximately 13,500 students and 2,200 staff

## Challenges

- Growing numbers of sophisticated impersonation and phishing attacks
- Staff surrendering credentials or falling for financial fraud
- Manual incident response processes time-consuming and unreliable
- Need to comply with California regulations and with Public Records Requests

## Solutions



## Benefits

- Advanced, AI-powered email security for a hybrid Google Workspace and Microsoft 365 deployment
- Major reduction of impersonation attacks and other phishing attempts
- Fast, automated response process when threats are discovered
- Simple, powerful compliance support



When the Superintendent of the Turlock Unified School District was impersonated in a recent email attack targeting District staff, Director of Technology Operations Robert Brogdon took it in stride.

“It didn’t give us any trouble,” says Brogdon. “Since we implemented Impersonation Protection as part of Barracuda Email Protection a couple of months ago, it’s detected and blocked about a hundred impersonation attempts, including that one.”

Of course, an occasional malicious email still does land in users’ inboxes on occasion. “When that happens, the automated Incident Response capabilities let us find and delete every instance of it from every email inbox in a few minutes at most.”

## Escalating attacks

In his 24 years with Turlock USD, Brogdon has seen a lot of changes in technology — and in the email threat landscape. “Years ago, when we first got the on-prem Barracuda email gateway appliance, we were immediately very happy with it. It just worked,” he says.

“We followed up with the Barracuda Message Archiver a couple of years later. It’s been invaluable for simplifying compliance with state regulations. We also get a lot of Public Records Act requests, and sometimes there are personnel investigations, and being able to very easily retrieve archived messages is a huge help. And a couple of years ago we upgraded from the on-prem appliance to Cloud Archiving Service, so that makes it even simpler.”

Brogdon oversees technology for a district that encompasses 15 schools and five auxiliary offices, with a staff of 2,200. “Over time, new kinds of threats started to be more of a problem, phishing scams and such,” continues Brogdon. “Some of our staff fell for gift-card scams from impersonation emails, and lost their own money doing it. And in a couple of cases staffers gave up their network credentials. That was a problem.”

## Upgrading to cloud email security

To keep up with evolving email threats, Brogdon stuck with Barracuda, updating and upgrading as new advances were introduced. “It was just a couple of years ago that we decided to make the switch from on-prem to cloud-delivered email security,” he says. “With our on-prem solutions, we had very rarely engaged Barracuda’s excellent support team. But with Barracuda Email Protection in the cloud, it’s as simple and reliable as can be, we’ve never needed any support for it at all.”

“Later, when we moved our email to Microsoft 365 in the cloud, we were able to implement AI-based Impersonation Protection and Incident Response capabilities,” continues Brogdon. “And that’s when we really saw a major drop in the number of threats getting in — and started saving a lot of IT person-hours over our previous manual incident response processes using PowerShell scripts.”

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**Robert Brogdon, Director of Technology Operations**  
Turlock USD





Brogdon appreciates the consolidation of multiple email security features in a single platform. “Having a single pane of glass to see and control everything, that’s priceless. Just yesterday, I had to find and pull 16 instances of a malicious email from 16 inboxes, and it took me a few minutes — on a Sunday morning, while I was out of the house.”

## Staying with a trusted partner

Over the years, Brogdon’s team has had to change vendors for various solutions. “When it comes to web filtering and endpoint security, we’ve been through a few different vendors, for a variety of reasons,” says Brogdon. “But when it comes to email security, we’ve never had any reason to reconsider our choice to use Barracuda. Everything just works as it should. As long as that’s true, we’ll stick with Barracuda as our email security partner.”

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Turlock USD

## Learn more:



**Barracuda Email Protection** is for organizations that want to protect their businesses, brands, and people against the most advanced email-borne threats. It’s a comprehensive, easy-to-use solution that delivers gateway defense, API-based impersonation and phishing protection, incident response, data protection, and compliance support.



# About Barracuda

At Barracuda we strive to make the world a safer place.

We believe every business deserves access to cloud-first, enterprise-grade security solutions that are easy to buy, deploy, and use. We protect email, networks, data, and applications with innovative solutions that grow and adapt with our customers' journey. More than 200,000 organizations worldwide trust Barracuda to protect them — in ways they may not even know they are at risk — so they can focus on taking their business to the next level. For more information, visit [barracuda.com](https://barracuda.com).