# Backing Up Education

Education gives students the chance to develop personally, socially and economically. It is a critical part to society as the latest technologies are developed and used in different areas of our economy. A northern California county office of education is a regional agency that provides educational leadership, resources and customized services to assist school districts. In October 2008, Energy Systems installed a Generac 300 kW 120/208 VAC 3 Phase diesel generator with two transfer switches to protect the agency’s servers. The servers store information for all of the schools in the county.

Over Memorial Day weekend 2019, the county office was testing their data center after making some system modifications. After the test, the 1,000 amp transfer switch had failed to go back to utility as it should. The county office called the 24/7 service department and Brad Reid, technician Energy Systems, responded right away to check over the system.

“The customer was very concerned that they were going to lose the servers when Energy Systems attempted to manually transfer the switch back to utility,” said Reid. “The manual transfer back to utility was successful and we were then able to replace the transfer relay.” After the replacement, Reid said he performed a transfer switch test and it was successful.

If the server would have lost power, it could have been detrimental to the agency. Data corruption could happen or the server could experience damage by not shutting down properly. “After this experience, the agency realized they were in need of extra redundancy,” said Reid. “Generac offers an integrated Modular Power System (MPS) where instead of relying on a single unit, two or more units work together providing extra redundancy.”

If the county office has the need to obtain a second unit, Reid said it would be easy for them to expand. “Generac gen-sets can be added to a current system depending on growth and need,” said Reid. “Then when a unit needs to be taken offline for servicing, the agency will have the peace of mind knowing they have the extra redundancy.”