



PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS, UNITED STATES

As the second fastest-growing school district in the state of Indiana, Perry Township Schools serve nearly 17,000 students across early learning and kindergarten academies and a variety of elementary, middle and two high school levels.

CHALLENGE

When Perry Township Schools identified gaps in its legacy video security system a year prior to COVID-19, they realized the need for real-time alerts of potential security risks to keep its students and staff safe.

SOLUTION

Shortly before the pandemic, Perry Township Schools invested in a comprehensive and integrated security system to enhance safety across all of its campuses. The integrated system leverages a combination of real-time alerts, instant voice communication and video analytics to notify administrators of suspicious activity, flag highly trafficked access points or quickly identify and locate students or individuals on campus.

When the pandemic struck, Perry Township Schools expanded these capabilities not only to monitor for student safety and standard risks, but to meet new COVID-19 safety requirements. This included the ability to monitor social distancing across its facilities and keep students safe with minimal disruption to their education.

BENEFITS

Video cameras integrated with communication and a command-and-control system provide alerts for staff when large groups of people gather. Employees are dispatched immediately to disperse groups of students if they are not maintaining safe social distancing practices. The school's leadership team was transparent about how this technology would be used and provide safety for the school community. Consequently, they received broad understanding and support for use of the system. Above all, the integrated system allows school personnel to stay connected with local law enforcement during emergencies and provide them with timely and accurate information.



"When we first introduced the technology to our community, we explained to parents in a public meeting that we did not intend to use it for surveillance. We emphasized why it was inherent to uphold our responsibility to be transparent, equitable and accountable with the new technology. When you make a big change like that you need to bring people along on the journey and help them to understand the need and the solution. We were able to share real examples of alarm triggers with parents and demonstrate how it made their children safer."

Chris Sampson
Associate Superintendent
Perry Township Schools



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