SCHOOL SECURITY SYSTEMS 101 GUIDE

School districts and administrators are faced with complex security challenges as it relates to school security. This ranges from managing onsite visitors, being able to efficiently lockdown facilities at a moment's notice, to streamlining communications with parents and authorities if an emergency were to happen.

This guide provides K-12 schools with practical information on how access control systems and their implementation can support their school's security plan.

WHAT ARE THE TOP K-12 SECURITY CHALLENGES?

School security challenges are complicated and unique to each school's specific needs. Access control technology helps centralize the management of a school's security system while introducing features that streamline a school's response if faced with an emergency, and can help schools effectively manage access points and who is on site.

Safeguarding a School's Perimeter and Entrances

During school hours, school campuses are closed to the public. To effectively control access, schools can build a secure area utilizing integrated access control and intercom systems to funnel visitors into a specific part of the building.

Site-wide Visibility

Real-time monitoring of access points and common areas across campus, including door status and cameras, providing a comprehensive and unified level of visibility school- and/or district-wide.

Immediate Lockdown Response

Schools need to be able to lock down their facilities at a moment's notice. Whether in response to a physical threat to student safety or a weather event such as a hurricane or tornado, schools must have rapid access to lockdown functionality.

Collaboration with Local Authorities

Providing local authorities with a way to gain access or view live video feeds in case of an emergency enhances situational awareness and allows authorities to respond to each situation accordingly.

Visitor Management + Background Checks

Schools need to manage and process visitors to ensure student safety. Integrating with state and federal databases enables rapid background checks on any visitor.

Mobile Security Management

In a school environment, system administrators are frequently away from their desks. Mobile security management can allow provisioned users to quickly unlock doors, view surveillance video, or initiate a lockdown from anywhere.

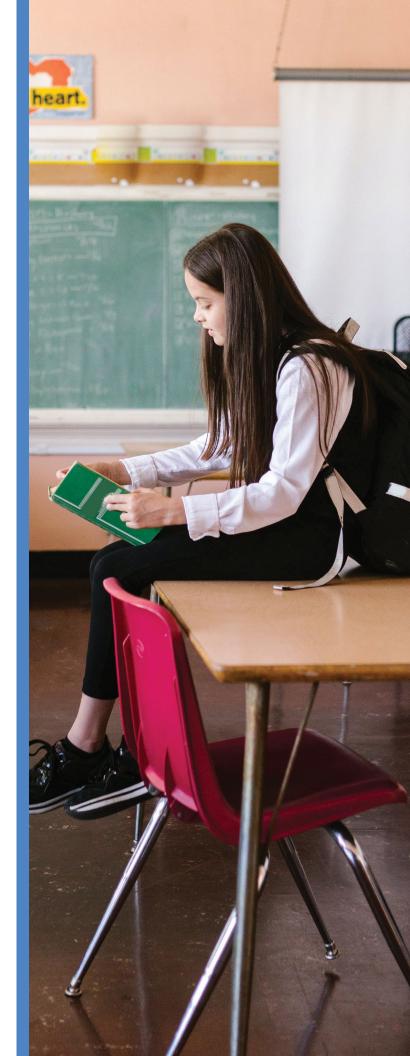## Flexible Security Management for After-School Activities and Events

During the school day, access is restricted to protect students, but once the day ends, schools often become public event spaces for athletics, meetings and community gatherings - completely changing their security profiles. School security systems with flexible scheduling capabilities facilitate that shift.

Efficient Communication to Authorities and Parents

Integrating with mass notification technology simplifies relaying security and other important information to faculty and students. Mass notifications can be critical during emergencies but can also provide useful information to parties not on campus like parents or local authorities.

Intuitive + Easy-to-Use Interface

Security system users are not always security experts so the systems in place should be intuitive and easy-to-use. To enhance situational awareness and improve efficiency, overall systems should be merged into a single interface for ease-of-use.

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KEY TERMS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Access control systems can be customized to a school's specific needs and challenges. Here is an overview of key terms and features that are available to schools and should be considered when developing a security management solution for a school.

Access Control Software Platform

The backbone of your school's security system is the Access Control Software. This is the user interface to program door locking schedules, monitor alarms and initiate lockdown events. The Access Control Software provides centralized visibility for monitoring, command and control across the school district.

Security System Integrator / Value-Added Reseller (VAR)

A VAR/Integrator is your go-to partner in the scoping, sourcing, installation, and maintenance of your school's security system. They will ensure the right solution to meet your school's needs, coordinate implementation, and serve as your long-term trusted partner in ongoing support and maintenance of your security system.

Cameras & Video Management Software

Many K-12 schools opt for a video surveillance component, enabling maximum visibility of building and property entrances, common areas, hallways, offices, and classrooms. You'll need secure cameras and software for accessing video feeds/recordings.

Door Locks and Readers

There are a wide range of options for managing access through doors and other entry points. Standard or smart locks, and wall-mounted badge readers can enable smooth access and instant, remote lockdown.

Service and Maintenance Plans

Once your security system is installed, you'll want to establish a service agreement with your VAR/Integrator to ensure your software is always up to date, and help troubleshoot when needed.

Other Life Safety Systems

Your access control solution can be configured to integrate seamlessly with your school's other safety systems, such as fire safety.

For more information on access control systems uniquely developed for school security solutions, please visit LenelS2.com.

To learn more about LenelS2's On The Safe Side program, head to LenelS2.com/OnTheSafeSide.