Improve School Safety

Every day, you strive to make your schools as safe as possible. You develop plans, deploy systems, and train your staff on how to prevent, deter, detect, and respond to safety incidents. And you are doing a great job. Statistics show that schools continue to reduce the number of safety incidents.

However, it just takes one incident to realize your safety plans and systems can always be improved. Incidents ranging from staff and student violence to community violence, including bullying, vandalism and bomb threats, to natural disasters can push your plans and systems to the limit.

Today, schools just like yours are looking for ways to improve communication, collaboration, and cooperation to help ensure students and staff remain safe.

A Converged Network Fosters a Safer School

You have invested in systems to enhance physical safety at your school’s facilities. Superintendents, school boards, principals, and others have worked with school resource officers and facilities to deploy monitoring systems, paging systems, phone systems, radio systems, and more. And while all these systems do their job well, they are lacking one important feature. They do not interoperable with one another or communicate with first responders.

A 2007 report by market analyst firm Forrester Research states that “the physical security environment has been dominated by analog, stand alone control systems with limited interconnectivity, digital communications, or integrated management capability.”

However, changes are occurring to overcome these issues. First and foremost is the convergence of physical safety systems and network infrastructures. Physical safety systems are taking advantage of network features to authenticate and segment users, monitor rogue behavior, implement policy-based responses, and improve communication between systems. In short, networks are providing collaborative services that enhance school safety.

A Look at Convergence: Before

The following scenario could happen at any school with disparate systems: A hazardous chemical leaks in a science lab. A teacher smells a noxious odor, initiates the safety protocol, and calls the resource officer. The officer then calls the fire department and local Hazmat team, and the principal evacuates the building. The Hazmat team arrives and notifies the principal to cordon off the building. The principal asks an administrator to call for the buses, call parents notifying them of an early release, and broadcast over the loudspeaker that classes are cancelled for the rest of day. Meanwhile, the students wait on the lawn for buses and parents to pick them up.

“Convergence is not about the unification of security into one environment, but about collaboration between environments.”

—Trends 2007: Physical and Logical Security Convergence, Forrester Research
A Look at Convergence: After

Using networked technologies, the scenario unfolds more efficiently. Chemical sensors in the building detect and identify the fumes before they are discernible to people. The sensors trigger predetermined actions in the school’s safety plans, while simultaneously alerting school resource officers, the fire department, Hazmat team, and the principal. The principal evacuates the schools and sends simultaneous notifications to the transportation department and the central office. First responders determine they need to close the building. This leads to an automatic SMS text notification that is sent to the transportation department and to parents, notifying them of an early release. It is also sent to digital signs throughout school grounds, to students and parents with cell phones, and to the paging system. Students start getting picked up within minutes of the notification.

“Increasingly as a means of reducing costs, increasing efficiencies or making better use of technology investments, organizations are integrating physical security devices for access control, monitoring and process control into the IT infrastructure.”


Enhance School Safety with Networked Services

Cisco® Safety Solutions for Schools make it easy for educational organizations to use the power of their IP network to enhance school safety. This unique solution set provides networked services to support your safety plans as outlined by your school resource officers and community police. As seen in Diagram 1 below, this solution set addresses the four primary areas of school safety.

**Diagram 1. Cisco Safety Framework for Schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Prevention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate incident management process that helps halt or mitigate disruptive actions</td>
<td>Deny the means and ability to plan, act, or acquire materials intended to cause disruptive actions</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detection</th>
<th>Deterrence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate notification that disruptive acts are occurring and activating preplanned policies</td>
<td>Create active, visible countermeasures that dissuade disruptive actions</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Table 1 takes a closer look at the networked services enabled with Cisco Safety Solutions for Schools.

### Table 1. Networked Services and Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Networked Services</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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| Video surveillance               | • Provides maximum flexibility for school camera placement without additional wiring  
• Enables immediate monitoring for prompt response and resolution  
• Enables central or remote monitoring of video by emergency personnel  
• Saves money and time for system maintenance and operations |
| Unified communications            | • Provides one-touch phone access to first responders  
• Enables emergency alerting to multiple devices via SMS text, voice, video, etc.  
• Delivers advanced 911 services to improve response  
• Easily integrates your communication systems with your public safety answering points and first responder agencies  
• Lowers number of dedicated phone lines to reduce overall infrastructure costs |
| Radio interoperability            | • Enhances operational effectiveness and helps protect property  
• Provides communications interoperability between wired and wireless networks  
• Easily activates predefined security plans with a single click |
| Digital signage                  | • Create, publish, and distribute emergency information across your school for instant, coordinated communication  
• Increase flexibility and lower operational costs over standalone systems  
• Scale your message across schools to thousands of devices  
• Deliver robust video over the network |
| Desktop video                    | • Help ensure all staff, faculty, and students know how to respond to various incidents  
• Quickly and easily update training materials |
| Location services                | • Improve recovery of missing items  
• Reduce replacement equipment costs and improve inventory management  
• Reduce financial liability by minimizing loss of school equipment  
• Location services can easily include visitor management |
| School transportation             | • Provide remote video monitoring capabilities to school resource officers, police, and first responders  
• Accelerate response to safety incidents on school buses |
| Visitor management systems       | • Eliminate inefficient, paper-based logging systems  
• Maintain an accurate visitor record for auditing and safety-incident reporting  
• Automatically identify unwanted visitors and deny them access to school buildings  
• Reduce personnel resources needed to help with visitor registration |
| Access control                   | • Reduce unauthorized access to school buildings  
• Lock down area remotely to isolate safety incident  
• Reduce personnel requirements for entry monitoring  
• Receive an accurate log about who enters your buildings |
| Building system monitoring       | • Identify incidents and trigger appropriate policy-based response  
• Reduce personnel requirements for building system monitoring  
• Eliminate the need for multiple costly proprietary systems |
| Acoustic and motion sensors      | • Reduce manual building checks and enhance school patrolling  
• Trigger predefined responses to reduce response time |
By using your IP infrastructure to deploy networked services, you can:

- Enhance safety at your schools
- Deliver effective methods for preventing, deterring, detecting, and responding to incidents
- Improve response times of school and community first responders
- Communicate quickly to students, teachers, staff, parents, and surrounding community during an event
- Improve operational efficiencies of your physical security systems and resources
- Identify and eliminate security gaps
- Reduce financial and legal liability
- Realize significant cost reduction/savings over standalone systems

**Total Solution Financing**

Schools realize the decision of how to acquire technology and services is just as critical as the investment decision itself. Cisco Capital® gives you access to the technology you need to deliver the next generation of services. By creating innovative, flexible financing, Cisco Capital bridges the gap between technology requirements and budget availability. It makes it easier for your school to get the right technology without being constrained by your current budget cycle.

Cisco Capital can:

- Offer total solution financing that allows for one simple, periodic payment for all products and services
- Customize payment plans to match and take advantage of the currently available budget and anticipated future funds
- Provide flexible, end-of-lease term options; depending on the type of lease or finance structure, schools may take title to the equipment, purchase it, renew the financing agreement, or return the equipment

**Let Networked Technology Enhance Safety at Your Schools Today**

Cisco can help your school resource officers and community first responders create safety plans that take advantage of the power of your IP network to maximize school safety. For additional information about Cisco Safety Solutions for Schools or about how to enhance communication and increase efficiencies, contact your Cisco representative or reseller, or visit:

http://www.cisco.com/go/schoolsafety