



| S3 TECHNOLOGIES

Ensuring Safety in Educational Institutions

Strategies and Solutions for Creating Secure and Nurturing Schools



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Building a Secure Learning Environment

No school administrator wants to imagine danger darkening their halls. Nonetheless, they should prepare for the grim possibility to establish and increase their school's safety. As school violence remains a widespread problem in America, prioritizing the protection of students, teachers, and staff is imperative. It is essential for fostering learning and development without fear.

To build a safe and peaceful educational environment, school administrators must deploy technology for security and emergency response. Advanced systems play a critical role in detecting potential threats and coordinating swift responses to emergencies. By integrating these technologies, schools can significantly enhance their ability to safeguard everyone on campus.

This e-book discusses essential technologies for maintaining safety in educational institutions. It also provides insights into how schools can adapt and prepare for future security challenges. Readers will gain valuable knowledge to create safer learning environments and respond proactively to evolving threats.



Essential School Security Solutions

Surveillance Camera Systems

Using security cameras for surveillance and monitoring is essential to establish a safe learning environment. The visibility of surveillance cameras serves as a deterrent, prompting malicious actors to reconsider engaging in unlawful behavior due to the heightened risk of facing legal repercussions.

Security cameras are the second most prevalent security measure on educational campuses. Based on data from the National Center for Education Statistics, security cameras had an adoption rate of 91.1% in public schools during the academic year 2019–2020¹.

¹ “School safety and security measures,” National Center for Education Statistics, accessed May 31, 2024, <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=334>.

Other advantages of installing security cameras include the following:

- **Proactive Detection:** Advances in AI are making it possible to detect noises such as gunshots and images of someone carrying a gun. This technology is continually evolving but allows for a possible lockdown before someone gets into the building.
- **Early Intervention:** Live monitoring allows faculty and staff to monitor live footage to respond rapidly to emergencies.
- **Accessible Evidence:** Camera footage provides permanent records that aid school leadership and law enforcement investigations.

S3 Technologies offers a video surveillance solution. Administrators may also opt for cellular and Internet backup so that the footage remains retrievable even during network disruptions. Additionally, administrators can manage access to allow only authorized personnel to monitor and control the system, thus maintaining high confidentiality and safety.

91% of public schools were adopting security cameras during the academic year 2019–2020.



Access Control

Access systems provide a single point of control for authorizing or blocking access to the campus perimeter as well as doors to specific locations. For enhanced security, schools may have their access systems integrated with law enforcement databases so that security personnel can screen intruders flagged in the database².

S3 Technologies offers solutions such as door buzzers, intercom systems, keypads, RFID key cards/fobs, fingerprint readers, retinal eye scanners, and hand geometry readers. These technologies give schools complete control over access points, allowing them to manage entry seamlessly and authenticate individuals with precision.

TIPS ON WHERE TO PUT ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS

- **Exterior Perimeters:** Playground, parking lot, recess area
- **Entry and Exit Points:** Main gate, visitor entrance, teacher/staff entrance
- **Interior Doors:** Document storage, equipment room, management office, locker/changing room, IT closets
- **Exterior Doors:** Doors not equipped with access control should have door buzzers or other technology that will notify staff that a door is propped open or has been opened.

² Center for Digital Education, Best Practices for Campus Safety and Security, (Folsom, CA: e.Republic, 2014), <https://www.anixter.com/content/dam/Anixter/white-papers/anixter-best-practices-for-campus-safety-and-security-whitepaper-en.pdf>.

Bulletproof Glass Solutions

Gun violence continues to be a major concern in educational institutions across the nation. According to CNN, since schools reopened in 2021, there have been record-breaking incidents of school shootings year after year³.

Glass is a vulnerability that an active shooter can easily exploit. It shatters upon impact, allowing the intruder quick entry to the building.

Installing bullet-resistant glass is an effective way to enhance physical security. It has multiple layers that absorb and disperse the force of incoming projectiles. If an assailant attempts to shoot through a door or a window with bullet-resistant glass, the glass will withstand the impact, thwarting the attacker's entry. It also buys critical time to initiate lockdown procedures and for law enforcement to respond.

³ Alex Leeds Matthews, "School shootings in the US: Fast facts," CNN, April 22, 2024, <https://edition.cnn.com/us/school-shootings-fast-facts-dg/index.html>.

⁴ Katherine W. Schweit, "Addressing the Problem of the Active Shooter," FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, May 7, 2013, <https://leb.fbi.gov/articles/featured-articles/addressing-the-problem-of-the-active-shooter>.

DID YOU KNOW?

Active shooting incidents, on average, last 12 minutes, according to the FBI⁴. More than half the time, the shooting is still underway when the police arrive. Any delay in the shooter's entry can save lives while waiting for law enforcement to respond.

Lockdown & Crisis Management Tools

Crises cover a wide range of natural and human-made disasters. Many states mandate that districts should have a crisis management plan to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from such events. They should also review and revise it regularly to identify strengths and weaknesses⁵.

Do messages reliably and quickly reach the entire campus? Can the system provide clear, concise life safety instructions? Is it accessible and intuitive during times of duress? Schools should partner with professionals, including security technology specialists, to develop an effective crisis plan that addresses these questions.

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To assist educational institutions in crisis management, S3's security solutions encompass alarms, public address systems, access control, and video surveillance. S3 combines all of these security solutions under one umbrella, making mass notification through all systems easy to control. S3 offers free webinars on best practices for emergency situations as well as free safety audits.

Schools should partner with professionals, including **security technology specialists**, to develop an effective crisis plan.

⁵ "Practical Information on Crisis Planning Brochure," U.S. Department of Education, November 9, 2016, <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/crisisplanning.html>.

S3 Technologies Helps Build Safer Schools

Ensuring that educational institutions are well-protected is crucial for creating an environment where students and staff can thrive. Comprehensive security measures reduce anxiety, promote personal growth, and guarantee uninterrupted learning, allowing everyone in the school community to focus on what truly matters—education and development.

With a decade of experience and a committed team, S3 provides comprehensive security solutions for educational institutions. From initial planning to installation and ongoing support, we recognize technology's role in creating a safe and supportive environment. Our technologies and support have helped schools establish a thorough security framework that offers strong school safety measures and improves emergency readiness



Sherman Whaley
1 review



★★★★★ 2 weeks ago **NEW**

Simply the best vendor that I've worked with...Excellent products, great customer service and extremely professional. I depend on them to help me keep our kids safe.



Future-Proofing School Security

With the increasing security concerns in educational institutions, schools can no longer take a passive approach to security. The shift toward newer facilities and larger campuses requires more advanced systems, policies, and programs to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff.

In response, schools can adopt advanced security measures to combat modern threats.

- **IP Cameras:** Unlike CCTV cameras, which rely on analog signals and wired systems, IP cameras transmit digital video over an internet protocol (IP) network, making them more flexible and easier to install. They also provide higher-resolution images, real-time monitoring, and remote access, allowing security personnel to view footage from anywhere with an Internet connection⁶.

⁶ Wylie Wong, "As School Safety Concerns Grow, What Role Can Modern Cameras Play?," EdTech Magazine, June 21, 2023, <https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2023/06/school-safety-concerns-grow-what-role-can-modern-cameras-play>.

- **Smart ID:** Smart IDs blend security and convenience. Besides granting building and door access, they can also secure personal lockers, serve as bus passes, and facilitate cashless payments⁷.
- **Visitor Tracking and Management:** Visitor management software replaces logbooks with a digital system that tracks visitors. These systems can search police databases. They can also be integrated with door access control by providing visitors with access codes on their phones and automatically revoking them when they leave⁸. Visitor tracking can also be connected with emergency notification systems, so visitors can be alerted in case of emergency.
- **Mass Notification Systems:** Mass notification systems disseminate alerts and instructions through various channels, informing everyone on campus of potential dangers and the appropriate actions to take. These systems allow multiple people to initiate emergency messaging, provide customizable and scheduled audible and visual notifications, and automatically increase PA system volume during emergencies to enhance safety.

⁷ "School access control does not need to break the budget," SecurityWorldMarket.com, April 14, 2019, <https://www.securityworldmarket.com/int/Newsarchive/school-access-control-does-not-need-to-break-the-budget>.

⁸ Emily Newton, "9 Amazing Tech Innovations Advancing Campus Security," Innovation & Tech Today, January 13, 2023, <https://innotechtoday.com/9-amazing-tech-innovations-advancing-campus-security/>



Takeaway

Schools should be safe places for students, teachers, and staff. To make this a reality, administrators should work with experts to design and install essential security technologies. Forward-looking schools go a step further by staying current on emerging technologies and studying how these innovations can address evolving threats.

S3 Technologies can be your school's partner in creating safety in educational institutions. Leverage our advanced security technologies and strategies to be well-equipped to handle present and future security challenges. Call [\(330\) 648-5408](tel:(330)648-5408) today to discover how we can help you create a secure environment conducive to learning and growth.



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