



Keeping NISD vigilant to orchestrate safer campuses



Northwest independent school district users in new era of safety with automated technology suite

Home to more than 29,500 students across 31 campuses, the Northwest Independent School District (NISD) provides premier educational services and opportunities to families in the northwest corridor of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Encompassing 234 square miles, NISD serves all or part of 14 cities, towns or communities across three counties - Denton, Tarrant and Wise - making it one of the largest school districts in the area. And with plans to expand from 31 to 34 total campuses for the 2023-2024 school year, the responsibilities of NISD are only growing.

Providing a safe and secure environment for the students, faculty, staff and visitors on their campuses is a top priority for NISD. The security team works in partnership with local law enforcement agencies and also deploys their own emergency response coordinators and safety teams across the campuses.

These teams, alongside the wider NISD community, leverage automated and integrated security systems to effectively monitor the entire school district while using robust communication technology to rapidly respond to potential threats. By utilizing a unified ecosystem of safety technologies, NISD can focus on providing outstanding educational services to its students.

Customer Profile

- Northwest Independent School District, Texas

Industry

- Education

Solutions

- Linked Capacity Plus MOTOTRBO™ system
- SL3500e
- Smart PTT/Smart PTT gateway with simplex radios and 3 law enforcement radios on network
- Orchestrate
- Vigilant Client Portal Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system (beta test)
- MOTOTRBO R7 radios

Benefits

- Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) software allows security staff to quickly identify and monitor suspicious vehicles
- Handheld ALPR application provides staff with the tools to monitor parking lots and coordinate with internal databases
- Coordinated communication ensures connectivity between school faculty and local law enforcement
- Automated security workflows provide instant updates and facilitate rapid resolutions to potential incidents on campus





Safe schools solutions

In order to enhance safety and security throughout the district, NISD implemented a comprehensive, tightly integrated technology suite from Motorola Solutions: the Safe Schools ecosystem. Featuring proactive threat detection, real-time situational awareness, instant communication, powerful analytics and fast response tools, the ecosystem is uniquely designed to dramatically boost campus security – regardless of size.

Orchestrate

Orchestrate is a simple, user-friendly portal that gives administrators and security teams the ability to configure and automate workflows that control the devices, software and systems within their integrated security technology ecosystem. These intelligent, automated workflows enhance efficiency as well as improve response times, effectiveness and overall personnel safety.

It equips security teams with the capabilities they need to detect triggers across a number of installed cameras, doors and other devices, and quickly take actions to proactively notify of concerning events and reduce risk of breaches by automatically alerting the appropriate teams and executing the proper procedure.

Client Portal ALPR

Client Portal automated license plate recognition software equips security and administrative teams with powerful vehicle location analytics and data, which can be fed into school-defined databases.

Campus security teams can search and identify a vehicle spotted at a single or multiple locations by complete or partial plate number. Using Client Portal analytics, they can then turn that information into actionable intelligence and investigate the situation accordingly.

When integrated with Orchestrate, ALPR data triggers alerts to the right security teams and administrative personnel's radios, to ensure they have the information required to manage developing situations.



Benefits

Automated License Plate Recognition software allows security staff to quickly identify and monitor suspicious vehicles

Being notified every time a vehicle enters or exits an ungated campus after hours isn't useful nor is it necessary. However, being able to retroactively review security camera footage after an incident involving vehicles has occurred - and using ALPR to identify those vehicles - can be crucial in resolving the incident and preventing repeat offenses.

When staff and students at a NISD school discovered one morning that a car in a campus parking lot had been vandalized overnight, as well as some school property, security teams quickly got to work. They reviewed footage from an ALPR exterior camera and were able to identify two vehicles in question.

Despite the footage being taken at night, and at some distance, the ALPR software was able to easily and clearly read the license plates. With this information the security team, in partnership with local law enforcement, were able to track down the vehicle's owner and bring a resolution to the incident.

Handheld ALPR system provides staff with the tools to monitor parking lots and coordinate with internal databases

With so many students and staff members across NISD campuses, managing parking and parking lot access is a significant job in and of itself. Security teams need to make sure only authorized vehicles are using the designated parking lots and that parking permits are paid and up to date.

To do this, the team linked LPR software with their internal authorized vehicle database. They then used the LPR application on handheld devices to scan license plates in NISD parking lots, instantly being alerted if a plate was unauthorized or if its owner did not have a valid parking permit.

This automation makes policing parking lots much easier and NISD safety and security teams can quickly identify vehicles that are not authorized to use their parking lots, thus allowing more space for students, staff and authorized visitors.

Coordinated communication ensures connectivity between school faculty and local law enforcement

In a more serious incident, NISD staff were able to use ALPR, security camera footage and close coordination with local law enforcement to facilitate the identification and apprehending of the perpetrator of a vehicle theft that occurred on campus.

During the construction of a new middle school on a central campus, an ATV-style vehicle belonging to the contractors was stolen. A car drove onto the campus, the driver then left that car before stealing the contractor's vehicle and exiting the site.

Using the Vigilant ALPR system, NISD staff reviewed security footage of the theft and picked up clear reads on the license plate of the car driven by the perpetrator. The system was able to accurately identify the owner of the vehicle and this information, along with images from the security cameras, was passed onto the police.

As a result, the perpetrator was identified and apprehended within 48 hours of the theft taking place.

Automated security workflows provide instant updates and facilitate more rapid responses to potential incidents on campus

NISD was given the chance to test how the Client Portal and Orchestrate systems work with one another, and they were very impressed with the results. Staff selected four vehicles belonging to faculty who agreed to take part in the test and they designated their license plates as 'hot.' This meant that the plates were entered into the security system as needing to be flagged whenever they were spotted on campus.

Any time these 'hot' plates drove past an exterior camera they were automatically recognized and NISD safety staff received instant alerts on their radios, as well as emails to notify them that a flagged vehicle was on campus. Though they were only tests, these scenarios highlighted how effective these automated systems are when it comes to monitoring activity across wide areas.

Using Orchestrate, plates from state and national databases can also be configured to send a plate hit alert directly to specific radio users, and optionally to local law enforcement. Stolen vehicles, sex offenders, open warrants and other use cases can now be addressed in real-time.





NISD and Motorola Solutions: Keeping students safer

When students and staff feel safe, they can focus on learning, growing, and thriving. That's why safety across every campus in the district is a top priority for NISD. And that's what led to its partnership with Motorola Solutions.

For more information on Motorola Solutions education solutions, visit:

www.motorolasolutions.com/education



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