Streamline and Automate Security Systems through Improved Technology Integration

FREEHOLD
Borough School District

A recent three-year study by Mississippi State University researchers concluded that poorly integrated technologies create significant operational barriers for public school systems. That finding came as no surprise to administrators with the Freehold Borough School District in New Jersey. They've been actively working to improve th integration of key communication and security technologies for several years with help from the experts at Eastern DataComm.

The Challenge

The district comprises three schools that serve students in pre-K through eighth grade. A few years ago, the district recognized that improved integration of telephone, intercom, and security systems would deliver a variety of important benefits. Of particular concern were the:

• Aging Phone System
In 2015, officials began investigating ways to enhance district-wide communications including an aging PBX phone system that included more than 200 lines, which required manual routing to get incoming calls to the right person.

• Separate Intercom Systems
School intercom systems were another cause for concern. Each of the three schools, including the two in the same building, had completely distinct public-address (PA) systems.

• Technology, Security, and Communication Integration:
These other challenges meant that, in the event of an emergency, the main office at each school had to be notified individually so they could make their own separate announcements.

How Freehold Borough School District Officials Describe the Experience

Joe Howe, the Business Administrator for Freehold Borough Schools, said the team at Eastern DataComm earned his trust by demonstrating both a high level of technical expertise and a deep understanding of the unique technology challenges in a public school setting.

An Eastern DataComm Success Story:

Freehold Borough
School District

Freehold, NJ
Schools: 3
Students: 1,675
Teachers: 149

Challenges

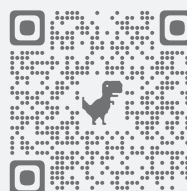Aging phone system required manual call routing

No district-wide intercom integrated with phone system

Communication and security technology challenges

Manual temperature checks created constant hallway traffic bottleneck

To read the additional details of this case study, scan this QR Code.

The Eastern DataComm Solution

Eastern DataComm addressed these challenges while enhancing security with the following solutions:

Integrating the Phone System with Security and Communication Technologies

Now, the new phone system could be tightly integrated with a number of school security technologies through Eastern DataComm's Lockdown and Emergency Notification System (LENS). The LENS Solution integrates the phone system with PA systems to create a fully automated emergency-notification system.

Utilizing the Lockdown and Emergency Notification System (LENS)

Using a patented system controller, LENS delivers notifications such as pre-recorded announce-ments via the school's paging system speakers, LED sign boards, strobes/beacons, wireless speakers, messages to key school administrators, and simultaneous calls to 911 and the local police. The LENS solution can initiate lockdown, evacuation, or shelter-in-place procedures within seconds after a threat is recognized and the system is triggered.

A More Efficient Approach to Emergency Responses

The system also ensures that emergency responders receive a "dispatchable location" to eliminate delays and confusion. Instead of simply receiving a street address with incoming calls, this capability gives 911 dispatchers additional important information, such as room number or floor number, to accurately identify the location of the threat.

Addressing the Emergent Technology Needs of the District

Another feature proved extremely valuable when schools first reopened after pandemic-triggered closures: Upon entering the buildings, taking the temperature of students and staff created a bottleneck effect with hallway traffic. But Eastern DataComm's solution integrated temperature scanning and reporting to streamline and expedite the process, alleviating congestion in the school hallways.

Solution at-a-Glance

Eastern DataComm created a streamlined way to address Freehold Borough School District's concerns including:

- District-wide phone system for more efficient communication
- Integrated temperature scanning and reporting to streamline processes
- Pre-recorded emergency annnouncements and LED signs and beacons
- Centralized scheduling of bells and clocks
- Simultaneous calls to 911 and police
- 20 second lock-downs and shelter-in-place

Address Your Communication and Security Challenges with Eastern DataComm

If your district is encountering challenges like the ones that Freehold Borough School District faced, contact Eastern DataComm for a complimentary School Safety Consultation.