

Educational Facilities - Case Study

Sony Internet Based / e-Surveillance System

Racine Unified School District - Racine, Wisconsin

The importance of school security cannot be overstated. A secure school means that everyone inside can concentrate on the matter at hand, which is providing quality education.

The Racine Unified School District in Wisconsin is an urban school district comprised of 37 buildings covering more than 21 square miles. The district operates three senior high schools, five middle schools, two middle/high school alternative schools, four ancillary buildings and the remaining elementary schools. The supervisor of operations for the Racine Unified School District said "One of my primary goals is asset and facility protection during unoccupied hours, including the maintenance and upgrade of all district security systems. I work closely with our security provider, response team provider and local law enforcement agencies."

As with many school districts, security has been heightened since the tragic loss of lives that was witnessed at schools such as Columbine High and Virginia Tech. Over the last eight years, the Racine Unified School District has systematically installed intercom units so that the buildings can be locked down while still providing access to parents and visitors. "In addition to being an urban district, there is a need, especially in the elementary schools, to prevent non-custodial parents or relatives from entering the buildings and removing children."

Presently, the Integrated Audio and Video Security system is being installed at the schools. This security system complements the existing security in place as it integrates with CCTV and electronic access control. Embedded card reader audio/video door stations are available for an all-in-one solution and are ideal for keyless entry.

The installation in most cases is completed within two days. "This installation is based on the mapping of wire runs, penetrations if applicable, wire mold runs and interior station locations. A variety of door and substations, combined with sleek and sturdy master stations provide a system that is versatile, comprehensive and simple for the user to operate.

The system is "outstanding and reliable, with minimal repairs needed. Picture and sound quality are good," he adds. Protective housings shield the units from vandalism. He points out that in an urban school district kids tend to take things that aren't nailed down.

There is a comfort level achieved by the school staff when they know that the students, as well as they themselves, are more secure.