

A textbook example of school security with Axis.

School District of Pickens County chooses Axis to protect 16,000 students in 27 schools.

**Organization:**

School District of Pickens County

Location:

Pickens County, South Carolina, USA

Industry segment:

Education

Application:

School safety and security

Axis partners:

A3 Communications, Video Insight, Dell

Mission

School District of Pickens County (SDPC) encompasses 27 K-12 schools in northwestern South Carolina. With concerns about school safety rising, SDPC desired an advanced, comprehensive security system to protect the 16,000 students under their care. The district already had a few analog cameras placed in known trouble spots, but they wanted to expand to complete coverage of the schools in their district with an all-IP camera system.

Solution

Security integrator and Axis partner A3 Communications recommended a fully integrated approach that took advantage of Axis' open, non-proprietary platform. A3 Communications and SDPC installed 1,600 Axis network cameras, along with S2 Security access control units and Video Insight VMS in every building in the district. In the high schools and middle schools, Axis cameras covered each doorway, hallway, parking lot and common spaces such as the gym and auditorium.

They took full advantage of the entire AXIS P33 Series by installing AXIS P3301-V, AXIS P3343-VE, AXIS P3344-VE and AXIS P3364-VE Fixed Dome Network Cameras to maintain constant coverage of the areas under surveillance.

Result

School District of Pickens County was able to achieve maximum coverage in the schools across their entire district. They can now more easily determine if a person should or shouldn't be on their high school and middle school campuses. The archived video is used to investigate incidents ranging from fights to misbehavior to operational issues. They are also able to use Axis network video for activities beyond safety and security such as distributing video to classrooms with encoders and capturing school board meetings for posting online.

“We wanted to put in an IP system with clear picture quality that would be with us for the future. Axis proved to be the best product for what we wanted to achieve.”

Danny Barrett, Director of Operations/AITS Special Projects, School District of Pickens County.

The evolution to IP

School District of Pickens County (SDPC) serves more than 16,000 students in northwestern South Carolina. The district encompasses 27 K-12 schools in the towns of Dacusville, Daniel, Easley, Liberty and Pickens. In response to rising concerns about school safety, SDPC worked with A3 Communications to install a sophisticated IP security solution throughout schools in their district. A3 Communications recommended an integrated approach with over 1,600 Axis network cameras, S2 Security access control units and Video Insight VMS.

Complete coverage from the lockers to the bleachers

The district opted for the discreet yet versatile AXIS P33 Series fixed dome form factor, with AXIS P3301-V Fixed Dome Network Cameras inside the schools and P3343-VE, P3344-VE, and P3364-VE Fixed Dome Network Cameras for exterior locations. These cameras provided constant coverage of the areas under surveillance. They all produce clear, crisp images, and the HDTV quality video of the AXIS P3344-VE and AXIS P3364-VE camera greatly increased the distance, range and image usability.

“We can cover the entire area we want with a nice, clear picture,” Danny Barrett, Director of Operations/AITS Special Projects for School District of Pickens County. Previously, cameras had only been installed in known “trouble spots,” but with the switch to IP video, SDPC wanted to provide general security for the entire district. They worked with A3 Communications to achieve the best coverage possible in each school. For the middle and high schools, they placed cameras at every door, in the hallways, exterior parking lots, gym, libraries, auditoriums, and football stadiums.

“We wanted a 100% covered campus to make sure nobody could walk onto the property without being noticed,” Barrett said.

The evidence for IP is clear

The system runs on a Cat6 horizontal infrastructure with an OM3 fiber backbone. Each school has various Dell PowerEdge servers, including the Dell PowerEdge R320, R420, etc. running a Video Insight VMS which lets principals and student resources officers create custom layouts to monitor areas such as the lunchrooms and pick-up and drop-off sites. They can also access video on mobile devices.

The cameras record 24/7 at a reduced frame rate, and then the IP cameras are triggered to increase frame rate upon motion detection. Video is stored for 60 to 90 days, and clips can be accessed by the school administration or student resource officer for investigations or to share with other local authorities.

The video is essential in determining the facts of incidents involving students and school operations. In one instance, the footage proved a student accused of misbehavior had actually done nothing wrong. In another, a contractor backed over a goal post, and the school was able to review the video, find the license plate number, and request reimbursement.

Taking IP video beyond security

Barrett and his team have also found creative uses for Axis products beyond surveillance. They are using AXIS Q7401 Video Encoders to distribute video satellite TV, student-produced news shows and morning announcements from the library to televisions inside classrooms.

“Axis encoders work because they are non-proprietary, and are a very cost effective way to distribute video,” Barrett said.

The district also replaced the video camera they used to record school board meetings with an overhead AXIS P3344-VE to get an unobstructed view of the board. Overall, Barrett said, “Axis cameras proved to be the best product for what we wanted to achieve.”

