



K-12 Schools Turn to Metis Secure for Emergency Notification and Communications Solutions

More than 50 million students attend pre-K-12 programs in the US every year. Nearly every weekday from September through May, up to 15% of the US population is clustered in the nation's schools. Safety and security leaders are rapidly adopting advanced technology solutions to protect this vulnerable population from a wide range of threats—extreme weather, building gas leaks, violent attacks, and many others.

These solutions include surveillance cameras, electronic access control, and increasingly, Metis Secure's advanced emergency communications systems. In just the past several months, primary and secondary schools in Connecticut, North Carolina, and New York have put Metis Secure systems in place to protect their students, staff, and visitors. Read on to learn more.

New York City Public K-5 Charter School

A growing K-5 public charter school in NYC wanted to substantially upgrade its emergency communications protection as part of a new building construction project, scheduled for completion in August 2014. The school's security integrator outfitted its new building with a Metis Secure system that features both emergency help call and instant school-wide emergency notification capabilities.

If an emergency strikes, designated safety and security personnel can instantly launch actionable alerts and voice instructions throughout the school, via Metis Secure's easy-to-use Command Center software interface from any authorized computer browser or mobile device.

Emergency Help Stations strategically mounted in school hallways broadcast intelligible voice instructions, display corresponding text instructions on the built-in LCD screen, flash lights and sound sirens for attention. Emergency alerts and instructions also take over computer screens throughout the building. Students, staff, and visitors immediately know what emergency actions they need to take.

In addition, with the press of the help button on any help station, students, staff, and visitors can instantly speak with designated on-site responders to report a problem or ask for help.

North Carolina Private Pre-K-12 Campus

Leaders of a 125-acre pre-K-12 campus in Raleigh, North Carolina wanted more effective communications tools that would help better coordinate operations and ensure the safety of students and staff.

The school's most urgent priority was giving its principals, guidance counselors, and other administrators a way to discreetly signal for backup if a student or visitor became agitated. However, a standalone panic button system was not a good option—the school wanted a multi-purpose, future-thinking emergency communications platform they could build out over time. “The Metis Secure system arms our customer with advanced emergency communications capabilities,” said Mike Moineau, Design Engineer/Branch Manager, and Industrial Electronics Systems. “And, it was simple and straightforward to set up! Metis Secure configured the system at their facility and sent it to us ready for installation.”

The school's security integrator designed an easily expandable, IP-based panic system on the Metis Secure platform. It includes discreet, under-desk IP panic buttons that designated personnel can use to instantly signal for help; responders are alerted to panic activations and their exact locations via emails and texts to their mobile phones. If they need more urgent and intrusive panic button notification, they have the option of logging into the Metis Secure Command Center software, which pops up on-screen and repeats an audio prompt if a panic button is activated.

Each panic button is individually configured to alert a specific group of people who work in the vicinity. This provides significantly more flexibility than other systems, where all buttons alert the same group of responders.

In addition, the Metis Secure system can easily expand as the campus's security and life safety needs change—providing unified control of communications, security, and safety systems by bringing these systems together on the Metis Secure platform.

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Connecticut Children's Museum and Pre-K School

A children's museum with a pre-K school needed a way to protect its students, visitors, and staff in an emergency—but as a public site with many people coming and going every day, the museum wanted a solution that would not compromise its open, welcoming feel.

Funded by one of the many new government grants available for school security, the museum's security partner designed an advanced emergency communications system based on Metis Secure's multi-purpose Emergency Help Stations. The system includes two-way, multi-modal Help Stations in strategic locations throughout the building, including one in each pre-K classroom.



Museum administrators can monitor the system by keeping the Metis Secure Command Center software up on any office computer; if someone presses a help button, the Command Center sounds a "call for help" audio announcement, the location appears on the on-screen floor plan, and office staff can immediately speak with the caller and determine what help is needed. In addition, the system makes it easy for authorized museum personnel to instantly broadcast actionable emergency alerts throughout the building in a crisis, and quickly direct people to safety.

The Metis Secure system accommodates multiple simultaneous users, and can be accessed by authorized personnel from any location, on-site or off. This enables the museum to provide access to the system for police at a nearby station if the need arises. Police can simultaneously monitor the system through any computer, so they know instantly when help calls come in or emergency alerts go out—allowing them to quickly respond if an emergency event occurs that requires law enforcement assistance.

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