



BIRDVILLE ISD ACCESS CONTROL
INTEGRATION TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE

SMART IP BUTTON



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- Darrell Maxey (Birdville ISD)

INSTANT ALERTS FOR SAFE SCHOOLS

The STOP School Violence Act makes available \$1 billion in matching grant programs to improve school security infrastructure, which includes the installation of panic buttons, such as Advanced Network Device’s new Smart IP Button. These instant alert buttons guarantee an immediate response during extreme emergency situations.



EASY TO USE AND INSTALL

1

Connect the button directly to the network with a standard network cable

2

Send an instant alert or lockdown trigger to devices throughout a facility

3

Send a pre-recorded message to any phone number, including 911

CASE STUDY: BIRDVILLE ISD

Birdville Independent School District consists of 33 campuses with more than 23,600 students, making it the fifth-largest school district in Northeast Tarrant County, Texas. As part of ensuring security and safety for their

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students and staff, the district has installed a mass notification system, which includes the Birdville Independent School District Access Control Integration (BISD ACI). Engineered and designed by Cistera Networks, headquartered in Plano, Texas, BISD ACI uses Cisco phones to initiate various levels of lock down, making it easy to control access to their facilities from a central location, along with mass notification.

IMPROVED RESPONSE TIME

In the past, during extreme emergency situations, a teacher would have to call the administrator, and then wait for the administrator to make a decision and/or respond, and back then, they had no means of controlling door access. Now all doors in the complex lock from one button press.

Under normal circumstances, the authentication service takes about 8 to 10 seconds to register, process, and activate the electronic card reader door lock via phone. However, the smart IP button significantly improved response time. Darrell Maxey, Telecommunications Engineer for the district's Technology Department, points out that “now it takes less than a second to lock a facility down.”

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As Maxey coordinates the installation of AND products throughout the district, he notes he isn't aware of any state that has set guidelines to follow for emergency planning. A task force at a local college made recommendations for a response readiness plan, and the AND products have helped security through the BISD ACI to meet and exceed the parameters of those recommendations.

For the most critical level, Birdville has implemented the Smart IP Button (IPBTN) from Advanced Network Devices to guarantee the fastest response for critical emergencies. The Smart IP Button connects directly to the network as an IP-addressable device, designed to send alerts or make pre-determined calls with a push of a button.

For the BISD ACI, the button would act as a panic button to trigger an immediate, complete lockdown of a facility for the worst-case emergency situation, such as an active shooter. Installed in strategic locations, authorized personnel would access the button at a moment's notice before taking shelter. With one push of the button, the system launches a series of alerts, including mass notification throughout the facility, instant locking of the badge-reader door access control locks, and an alert to the location's response team, as well as emergency responders.

Maxey adds “By using AND products, we're improving what we've already done in terms of response times. Instead of making a call and waiting for someone to make a decision on how to respond, the Smart IP Button enables the person on the front line to make the decision in the moment, locking down the facility and notifying the authorities. For situations like an active shooter, you can only prepare, so preparation and training is the focus.”

