



# Mount Gilead School District Enhances Learning and Safety with the Use of Technology

Case Study

Mount Gilead School District



## Opportunity

Schools across the country are faced with the challenge of keeping their students and teachers safe, while maintaining an environment that promotes learning and social growth. The Mount Gilead school district is addressing this issue head on by implementing a technology strategy that directly supports student learning, and at the same time provides safety and security.

## Solution

The District Technology Team, which oversees technology operations, makes recommendations, and contributes to the development of the District Technology Plan, took an enterprise wide approach when implementing the Cisco IP telephony system across all of its schools. This approach has allowed them to seamlessly add various types of applications and technologies to the network, such as video streaming, IP video cameras, and wireless alerting devices including panic buttons and door sensors.

Status Solutions worked in conjunction with Cisco Systems technology partner IPcelerate™ to deliver an alert and notification solution to the Mount Gilead school district. A direct link was created between the wireless panic buttons, the IPsession™ appliance provided by IPcelerate™, the Situational Awareness and Response Assistant (SARA) software provided by Status Solutions, and the Cisco IP phone system. When a fixed or wireless panic button is activated or a monitored door or window is opened, then a voice or text alert will be sent directly to the principal or other pre-defined security locations such as the local police. Again, the emergency event triggers an alert that is sent directly to the proper location and individual for an immediate response.

## About

The Mount Gilead Exempted Village School (EVS) District, located in Mount Gilead, Ohio, includes Park Avenue Elementary School, Mount Gilead Middle School and Mount Gilead High School. The school district strongly believes in the importance of technology and provides a variety of tools to support student learning. The technology infrastructure supports a wide variety of technologies including IP telephony, video streaming, security (IP cameras, alerting devices), wireless access, and web-based applications.



### Implementing a Cost Effective Solution

The video surveillance system is integrated into the network, so that the SARA system can be used as a notification device to activate video recording based on an alert event. With the video application and voice application working cohesively on the same IP network, the overall system is easy to maintain, and allows the Mount Gilead school district to continue to leverage their technology investments, as well as to increase the security provided to students and staff.

### Incorporating Video Alerting to Increase Security

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### The Partnership

Wireless technology affords the luxury of rapid and cost effective deployment. Therefore the wireless coverage already in place throughout the Mount Gilead school district enables the schools, as well as the administration buildings, to deploy additional sensors and cameras at any time. Additional sensors and devices include cigarette busters, water sensors, temperature monitors, motion and smoke detectors. As the situational awareness needs of the district evolve, changes and enhancements to the existing technology environment can be quickly and easily made.

## Summary

**In comparison to other schools across the country, Mount Gilead school district is leading the way in regards to their technology strategy. By leveraging their existing IP platform they are now able to provide wireless alerting devices that literally can help save lives in an emergency situation. Door and window monitoring, fixed and wireless panic buttons, along with video surveillance cameras provide the means by which SARA can notify the appropriate individuals and authorities in the event an incident occurs.**

**Mike Wellin, Mount Gilead school district Technology Director, comments, "We believe that is vital we take advantage of the state-of-the-art technologies that are available to us to help improve the safety and security of our teachers and our students."**

## About Status Solutions

Status Solutions provides situational awareness solutions with expertise in vertical markets such as senior housing, healthcare, education and government. The Situational Awareness and Response Assistant (SARA) is an automated alerting system and awareness engine that sends voice and text alerts via phone, email, etc. SARA provides a wireless sensor network, integration tools (to existing systems and devices) and broadcast communication in a single solution.

Our mission is to keep people informed. With our innovative alerting solutions delivered by SARA, you can be aware of any situation occurring in your facility. Because **RIGHT NOW** matters most.

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