

Education Security Consulting Case Study

An independent day school a few miles north of Boston approached Risk Mitigation Technologies, LLC to conduct a comprehensive security assessment of their campus and surrounding environment. The school was looking for help in understanding the threats, risks, and vulnerabilities they faced as an organization and the most appropriate ways in which to mitigate those concerns. They had never had a formal risk assessment conducted by an independent security consulting firm.

Our Approach

Risk Mitigation Technologies, LLC conducted a comprehensive assessment of the school to review existing physical security technologies, security personnel, emergency plans, and the associated policies, procedures, and processes. We also reviewed the prevention/training strategies currently in place to keep students, faculty, staff, and visitors safe.

A thorough walk of the campus led to interviews with administration, faculty, staff, and parents. These interviews helped us understand security concerns on the campus as well as gather an understanding of the overall perception of security. Emergency management and large event planning and processes were reviewed. Interviews with local first responders gave us an inside look into their capabilities with assisting the school in case of an emergency.

Recommendations Include

- Modifying the current method of accessing the campus by reducing the number of entry points for guests to one gate.
- Implementing a visitor management program that would require all non-affiliates of the school to register at a central point.
- Upgrading the technology associated with the school's public-address system to improve the likelihood that emergency announcements would be heard at all points on campus.
- Reviewing and modifying the emergency management manual to allow for plan in association with a hostile intruder event.
- Developing a Security Technology Master Plan and standardizing technology across the campus.

Results

There were several significant concerns identified because of the comprehensive assessment.

Key concerns included:

- The need for a visitor management process that would identify visitors on campus and address the issue of student accountability.
- The lack of a reliable emergency communications system.
- The need to update emergency procedures, specifically with respect to response to active shooter threats.
- The absence of a defined program of working with local first responders to coordinate response to critical incidents on campus.
- The lack of faculty and staff training relative to emergency procedures.