



Case Study

Enhanced security for Hamilton schools

Hamilton Township School District's commitment to school safety with Motorola Solutions

With three schools and almost 3,000 students, ranging from Pre-K through eighth grade, under its responsibility, no two days are the same for the Hamilton Township School District. The District employs roughly 690 teachers and support staff across its three schools, George Hess Educational Complex, Joseph Shaner School and William Davies Middle School, to provide the best possible education experience for its students.

The District's responsibilities go beyond the education it provides; the safety and security of students, staff and visitors in all three schools is a top priority. School Resource Officers (SROs) operate within each school building in the district to monitor and respond to incidents. The District adopts a proactive approach to the security of its schools by being as prepared as possible to detect and prevent dangerous events before they happen.

Customer

Hamilton Township School District
Mays Landing, New Jersey, USA

Industry

Education

Solutions

- Unity Video and cameras
- Unity Access
- Rave Alert/Mass Notification and Panic button
- Halo Smart Sensors
- License Plate Recognition (LPR)
- Visible Firearm Detection (VFD)
- MOTOTRBO CapPlus
- MOTOTRBO Ion Radios
- MOTOTRBO R7 Radios
- WAVE PTX
- Orchestrate

Benefits

- **High-quality cameras** deter anti-social behavior and enhance security monitoring.
- **AI-powered technology** proactively alerts staff to potential threats.
- **New radios** improve staff communication and coordination.
- **Automated alerts** enable security staff to focus on proactive patrols.
- **Integrated technologies** create a comprehensive system for layered safety.



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Challenges

Geographic location, coverage and range

Hamilton Township School District faces a unique set of challenges, in large part due to its geographic location and its proximity to certain areas. The three schools are within a few miles of each other, but they are also within walking distance of the local courthouse and jail, and in close proximity to a major highway with numerous busy bus stops in the area. This makes it vital that the District's security staff remain constantly vigilant about who is on school property and what is going on at all times.

But the technology suite the District previously used was not up to the task. There was nowhere near enough camera coverage of the school sites, with just 37 cameras in place across the three schools in the district. There were countless areas on school grounds that weren't covered by a camera, meaning investigations into incidents were hampered. Not only that, but those cameras would often crash and stop working, leading to even less coverage. Security teams had to rely on historical information like eyewitness accounts and were only ever responding to incidents that had already happened, rather than preventing them from occurring in the first place.

The radios Hamilton Township School District's staff were using also caused security concerns. While the devices would work inside school buildings, they did not have the capability or range to allow staff to communicate across school sites. This would isolate teams and make it difficult to share crucial information, particularly during emergencies. The radios they were using also struggled inside concrete buildings, with numerous dead spots being identified.

Like any other school district in the country, Hamilton Township faces a wide range of security challenges daily. From random or unknown deliveries and large pickup and drop-off crowds, to fights in the schoolyard and unwanted visitors attempting to enter school buildings, the District was unequipped to be proactive against these types of safety and security incidents within its three schools.

While security staff remained effective at responding to incidents, they did not have the technology they needed to flag and resolve potential issues before they developed into something more serious.





Solutions

Ecosystem implementation

Hamilton Township School District turned to Motorola Solutions for the safety and security technology it needed. The two organizations collaborated closely to facilitate the deployment of various technology solutions, including next-generation radios and License Plate Recognition (LPR) software, across all three schools in the district.

The District is now utilizing the Motorola Solutions' safety and security ecosystem, with over 550 AI-powered cameras installed on its school sites. Not only do these cameras enhance security teams' ability to observe school grounds and proactively detect critical events, but they also act as an effective deterrent against anti-social and dangerous behavior. The introduction of these cameras led to an initial uptick in the number of incidents on school sites; a result of the security system being able to detect more activity over a much wider area. Since then, the District has seen a reduction in these events as awareness of the monitoring has spread. The cameras also aid in resolving fights by identifying aggressors, non-aggressors and bystanders.

With AI-enabled LPR and Visible Firearm Detection (VFD) technology, security staff are automatically alerted to flagged vehicles, such as those owned by an individual banned from school grounds, and individuals carrying firearms detected by the cameras. This means security teams are spending less time monitoring camera feeds and more time on patrol, responding to callouts and engaging with staff and students.



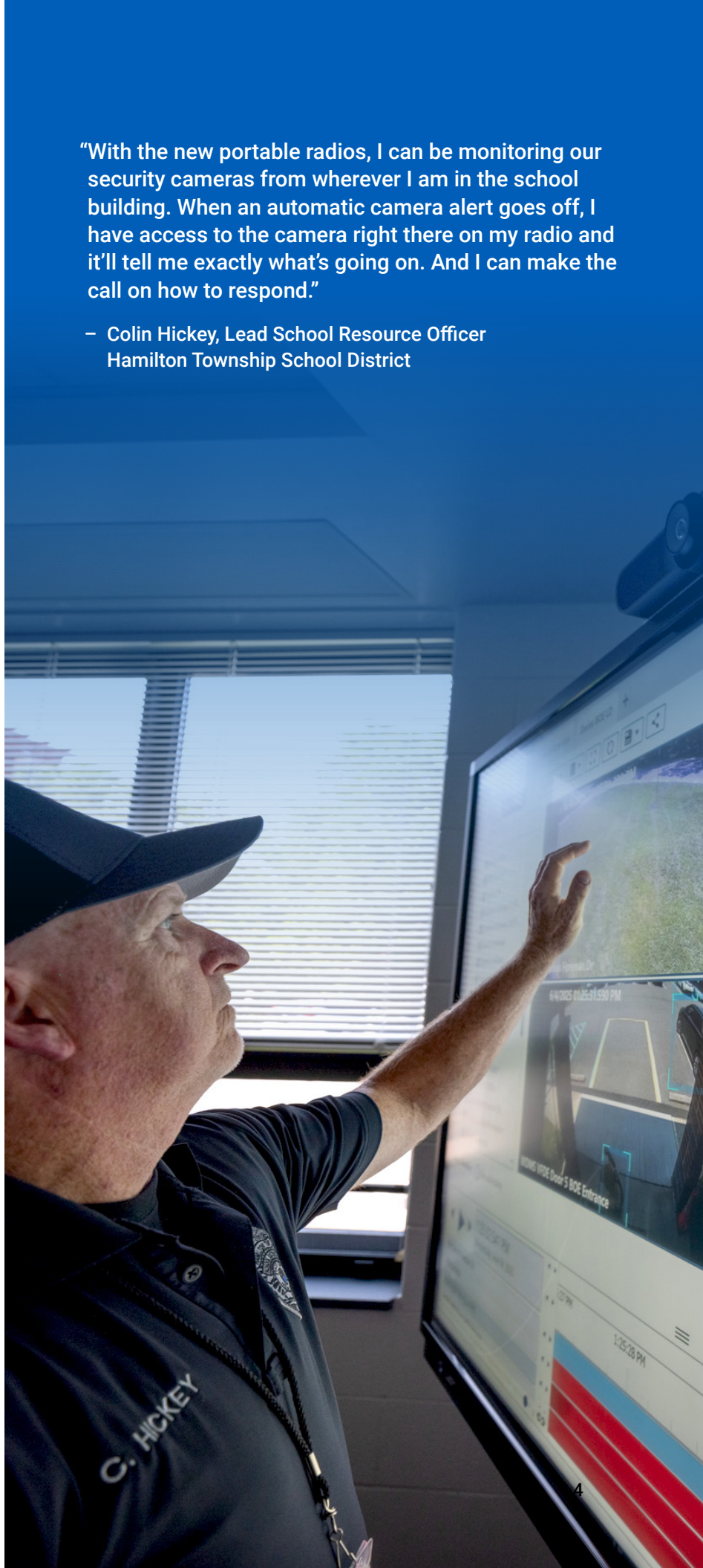
With a suite of new radios from Motorola Solutions, Hamilton Township School District staff - from teachers to SROs - are now able to stay connected and communicate more clearly and consistently. With the MOTOTRBO Ion radios, SROs can access and send multimedia files, including security camera footage, from their device while on the move. Administration staff and teachers use XPR7000 and XPR3500 radios respectively, which keep them connected over a much wider area and work seamlessly inside concrete buildings and across sites. Radio communication within the Hamilton Township School District is now more reliable than ever.

The Motorola Solutions ecosystem that Hamilton Township School District implemented also includes several other vital security technologies. Halo Smart Sensors detect vaping, smoking or bullying in private areas like restrooms and locker rooms, while access control software helps secure entrances and faculty-only areas with sitewide lockdown capabilities during emergencies. Rave Mass Notification applications allow urgent security messages to be disseminated to a wide group of people at the push of a button.

These technologies can be tied together by Orchestrate, which connects radio, video and software in automated workflows to enable a coordinated response. For example, if VFD on a camera detects someone carrying a firearm along the school perimeters, Orchestrate triggers a site-wide lockdown via Unity Access, preventing the assailant from even entering the building. A mass notification is sent via Rave and 911 is called via Panic Button.

"With the new portable radios, I can be monitoring our security cameras from wherever I am in the school building. When an automatic camera alert goes off, I have access to the camera right there on my radio and it'll tell me exactly what's going on. And I can make the call on how to respond."

– Colin Hickey, Lead School Resource Officer
Hamilton Township School District





Security technology built for the job

Hamilton Township School District has equipped itself with Motorola Solutions' safety and security ecosystem designed to keep its schools safer for staff, students and visitors. From an increased number of higher-quality cameras to AI-enabled LPR and VFD technology, the District now has the tools it needs to help prevent and respond to more incidents than before and continue to nurture a safe education environment.

To learn more, visit: www.motorolasolutions.com/en_us/solutions/education.html



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