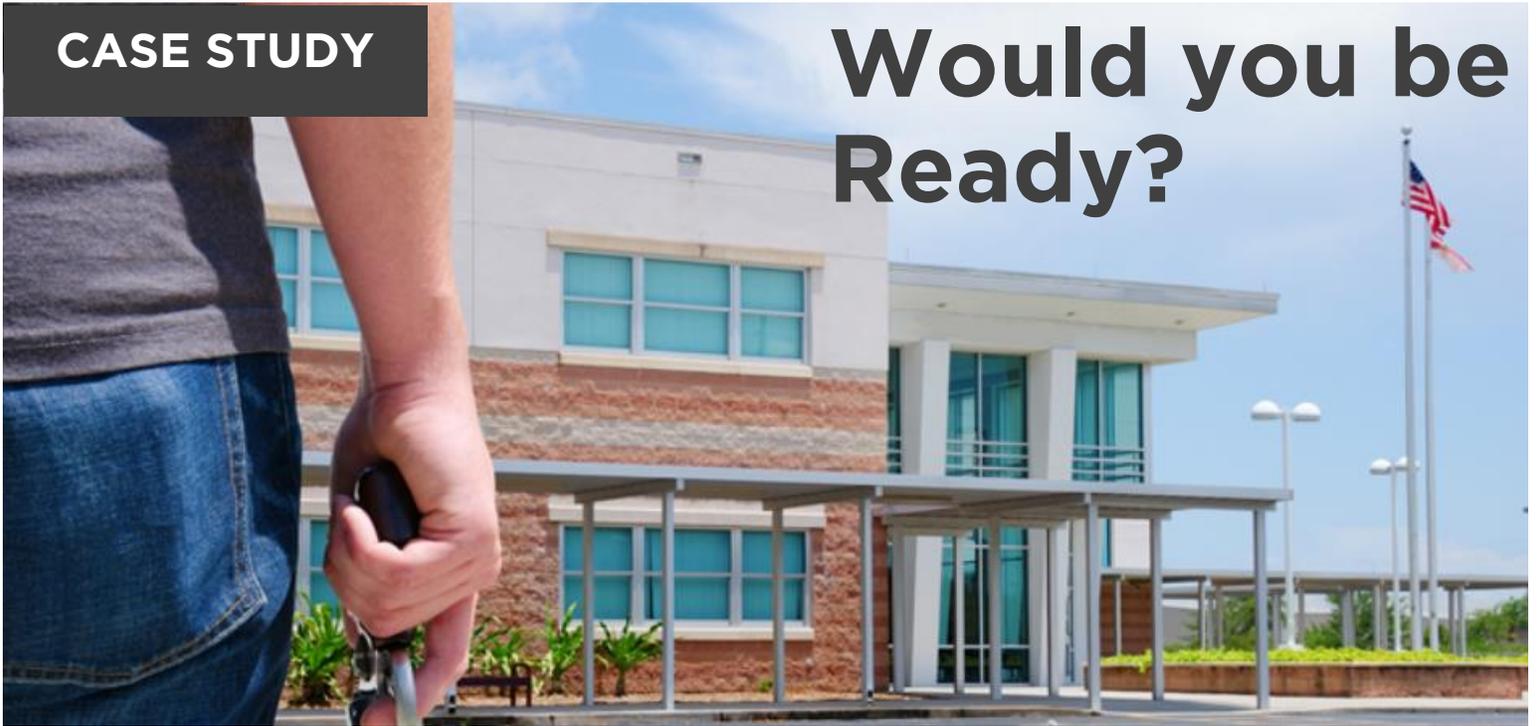


## CASE STUDY

# Would you be Ready?



### MASS NOTIFICATION

## Introduction

A fire breaks out in the middle school auditorium. A water main breaks, forcing the elementary school to cancel classes. A very suspicious stranger is reported lurking on the grounds of the high school. In an extreme case, a crime suspect is on the school property and puts everyone in the building in danger.

Recent history has proven these emergencies do happen and they require swift action by building and district administrators to protect students, faculty, and staff from immediate threats to their safety – while keeping parents and guardians updated.

**Every second is critical!**

### What is a Mass Notification System?

Effective communication during emergencies is essential. Mass notification systems typically use existing data and voice networks to deliver pre-recorded or live messages that alert parents, students, and staff of emergencies and provides them with instructions, such as evacuating a building or going to pre-assigned rooms that serve as shelters.

The system allows for immediate contact to all parties through phone calls, text messages (SMS), instant messages, emails, and other alerts on many different devices such as analog and digital phones, computers, mobile phones, digital assistants, fax machines, and pagers.

Additionally, mass notification systems can broadcast messages indoors and outdoors through loudspeakers, paging systems, digital signage, and alarms.

Typically, our customers also install video surveillance cameras to augment the mass notification system because it's better to be able to see and hear what's going on. Besides playing a role during emergencies, surveillance systems let administrators monitor high-risk areas to reduce crime and vandalism.

### Other Benefits:

While mass notification systems are geared toward emergencies, they are also used for other situations such as to warn people of severe weather, class cancellations, a gas line or water main break, or other important information.

### SAMPLE PROCESS

When the Emergency Button is pressed, the system will trigger and the Emergency Phone can be picked up allowing a message to be left. Once the message is made, the phone will be hung up.



Immediately after the button is pressed, the system will trigger the PA system to scroll an EMERGENCY message and sound an emergency tone, the exterior strobe will turn on, and emergency dispatch will be notified.



# 911



After the phone has been hung up and message left, a mass email and voicemail will be dispatched to all contacts on the emergency list.



# Fort LeBoeuf School District

## Waterford, PA



### Background

With the recent increase in school-related violence, heightened security has quickly become a priority for every school district. The Fort LeBoeuf (FLB) School District was no exception. District officials were adamant that their school project included the technology needed to make their buildings as safe as possible.

### Challenge

FLB faced several steep challenges in upgrading their life safety access and security systems. One of the biggest challenges was having a 5.5-mile separation between buildings, no high-speed telecommunications, aged wireless infrastructure, slow fiber transmission speeds, and outdated phones, clocks, and IP networks.

## Working with SmartEdge

### Solutions

#### Integrated High-Speed Communications

SmartEdge installed a high-speed, redundant, long-range wireless system that featured automatic failover and VOIP & VLAN traffic shaping. This system provided seamless integration with the existing network infrastructure and increased network speed, stability, and simplicity.

#### Video

38 new IP cameras were installed allowing staff to observe activity inside and outside of their buildings. They can "live-monitor" the cameras, but they are mostly used to determine what happened during an incident. Video intercom is also a nice feature that was added to the district's security system allowing staff to see visitors requesting access to their buildings.

#### Card Access

In addition to video security, all school employees have a key card that allows them to enter locked doors by simply holding the card up to the sensor near the door. This access control system eliminates the need to carry around numerous keys since once card can be used to open multiple doors and if at any time a card is lost or stolen, it can be deactivated.

#### Dual-Purpose IP Clock System

The new digital clock system was designed with dual-purposes; electronically synchronized time display and the ability to display discrete messages. Integration occupant messaging can be very useful in the event of a crisis.

#### Integrated IP Classroom Phones

Simply by entering a 4-digit code the police, fire department, and emergency responders, as well as student's parents, will be notified within seconds of an emergency situation. This notification system is synchronized with the display clocks, gives a distinct audible tone, and turns on the blue beacon visual indicators on the front of the buildings. The system also has a unique option of allowing staff to leave a message in case remaining on the line isn't possible. The district also wanted an emergency button installed for extreme emergencies.

#### Fire Alarm

A new fire alarm system was designed to include smoke detectors, heat detectors, pull stations, duct smoke detectors, sprinklers, suppression systems, and notification appliances.

#### Conclusion

Having an emergency action plan is necessary. Having a crisis management solution is critical! By partnering with SmartEdge, the Ft LeBoeuf School District, has given its staff, students, and residents the confidence that they are better protected and safer more now than ever.

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