

Case study | March 2021

Protecting campuses and teachers that educate our children

How Ava's intelligent video security solution is serving K-12 districts

High standards for physical security across K-12 districts

As multi-location communities with classrooms, buildings, food services, sporting events and performances, K-12 school districts are mini-cities in themselves. Beyond the safety of teachers, employees and students, K-12 districts are also responsible for protecting parents and other visitors.

With such high standards and complex needs, K-12 districts recognize the need for intelligent security systems that enable proactive monitoring, provide fast and smart forensics, and comply with NDAA Section 889.

A system that can reduce:



Active shooter incidents



Assaults/crimes



Vehicle & personnel breaching the campus

A system that can enable:



Contact tracing



Occupancy counting



Insights for the campus operations

Challenges faced by K-12

Many K-12 districts realize their current video surveillance platform creates challenges that if left unresolved, could result in life-threatening consequences. These challenges include:



Inadequate situational awareness

Just the size and diversity of a K-12 district poses security challenges. Past security measures may have led to gaps in coverage, leaving campuses vulnerable to both internal and external threats.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic created the need for increased situational awareness. Without a real-time and dynamic understanding of the environment, it is difficult to enforce preventative measures to control and mitigate the risk of transmission.



Slow incident response time

Speed is critical. Within the confines of a school, the consequences of slow incident response time can be devastating and even deadly.

The longer it takes for security personnel to gather, understand, and analyze the details of an incident, the greater the threat becomes. Responding to an active shooter, vehicle breach, or an assault, requires immediate action that isn't usually available through existing technology.



Limited real-time analytic capabilities

K-12 school districts need to prevent incidents from occurring rather than simply reacting after an incident has occurred. The traditional method of receiving an emergency call and responding after the fact is too costly, Automated notifications and alerts based on anomalies and rule-violations that are captured on video give security teams the power to act.



NDAA-889 compliance

Section 889 of the NDAA applies to schools receiving federal contracts, grants, and loans. This means K-12 districts must meet NDAA-889 compliance, which states that the U.S. Government has banned specific telecommunications and video surveillance equipment utilizing chips manufactured in China.

Why Ava?

One K-12 school district recently turned to Ava for an end-to-end intelligent security solution to meet its full range of needs. They required a platform that was:



Proactive. When there is a need to respond to a threat, the response needed to be immediate.



Precise. It was critical to pinpoint the exact location and nature of a security event in seconds - not hours or days.



Simple. The system had to be straightforward to implement, manage and use within its infrastructure and with existing cameras. Ease of use saves time and lives.



Scalable. The system needed to be able to easily scale to thousands of cameras.

Ava understands that protecting K-12 school districts takes more than security teams armed with good intentions and cameras. Seconds matter. Ava's wicked-fast and smart forensic searches and powerful analytics transform the manually intensive examination of massive surveillance footage into accurate and useful results within mere minutes. Security operators can:

- Use powerful appearance, event, or image search functions to narrow down and track people or objects of interest.
- Add configurable maps of the entire campus to gain situational awareness and insights. Each map includes camera views, alarm views, as well as the ability to track people and objects as they move around.

Only Ava could meet their challenges:



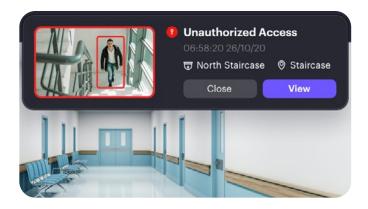
Advanced situational awareness: Powered by Smart Presence™, Ava's use of AI and machine learning allows security personnel to detect anything unusual at any time. The Aware VMS understands perimeters and behaviors, identifies, classifies, and tracks people of interest, vehicles, or other objects to send alerts before threats escalate.

Operators now receive immediate alerts on unidentified loud noises including the exact source of the sound through microphones. The District's security team is now able to stop threatening actions before there is damage to property or people.



Rapid incident response: Powered by Ava's Spotlight, video streams change dynamically to bring only the relevant feeds to the attention of the operator. Real-time alerts and notifications show up on the video wall to describe the incident, the time, and place it occurred.

Using Ava's **Smart Search™**, security operators are able to search by event and similarity to perform appearance and image detection powered by machine learning capabilities to comb through countless hours of video within seconds.



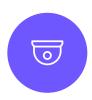
Real-time analytics: Ava's platform alerts the district's security operators of threats in real-time. Based on intelligent algorithms and self-learning to detect abnormal behavior, it will intelligently highlight what's relevant on the school's cameras, in real-time, all the time.

NDAA compliant:

Ava's video hardware is TAA (Trade Agreement Act) Compliant, enabling K-12 districts to be fully NDAA 889 compliant.

Ava's solution also provided operational efficiencies:





Whether a district is replacing all or some of its cameras, the Aware VMS easily integrates into—and enhances—its existing cameras with the same AI capabilities embedded into Ava's cameras. Now, existing ONVIF cameras are enhanced with analytics such as object detection, people and vehicle count, similarity-based searching and more. By linking all existing cameras into a larger, AI-based video analytic platform, the college or university can leverage these powerful analytics across 'all the cameras, all the time'.



Ava's solution easily integrates into access control, remote monitoring, and existing infrastructure. Monitoring all campuses in a district can be done as part of a single video management system.



Scalable

The platform can easily be clustered to meet the growing needs of a district, from hundreds to thousands of cameras.



Deployment simplicity

Ava's system is designed for overall simplicity and readiness for deployment. With security cameras that were ready to go—fully loaded with out-of-the-box Ava Aware software—the District easily replaced cameras in a phased implementation, minimizing installation time and eliminating downtime. Ava's simplified licensing/pricing model simplified deployment.

The same simplicity extends to maintaining scalable management within a District's group configuration policies. Plug and play configuration removes the need for user names and passwords, pre-configuration steps, and default settings.

And finally, the K-12 District chose the Ava system for its general ease of use. Security operators now have access to detailed camera information, activity logs, and advanced video adjustments in a single, user-friendly screen view.

Set up for success

The K-12 District is now set up for success with an end-to-end intelligent video security system that will scale with their needs. Additional highlights include:

- The highest level of security to protect against the vulnerabilities of the connected world. The equipment has end-to-end encryption, factory-installed certificates, and records detailed audit trails of both operators and administrators to assist with any other compliance requirements.
- Security operators have gone from data overload to easily and quickly accessing actionable insights to drive more confident and proactive security decisions. Security teams can:
 - respond in real-time and investigate incidents faster and with fewer resources. Essentially, they're acting on the system's identification of objects, events, anomalies, and similarities that detect issues as they unfold.
 - full occupancy insight to manage the flow of people and traffic across multiple campuses in support of COVID-19 rules and regulations. Ava Smart Presence™ includes a people and vehicle counter to track objects in real-time, allowing for historical analysis and reporting.
 - trust in a powerful security solution that doesn't inadvertently contain non-compliant technology posing a new threat.
- Seamless integration with existing access controls and compliant cameras to cost-effectively meet the 889 mandate and fully leverage analytics across the entire security system.

Whether enhancing your existing cameras with advanced video analytics, replacing your entire video security system to meet the NDAA mandate, or creating a solution from scratch, K-12 School Districts can leverage Ava's cameras and powerful analytics for the highest levels of proactive security.



Ava Security is a global technology company with offices in the UK, Norway, and the USA. It was founded in 2016 to create a better, smarter way to deliver security.

Ava protects people, property, and data anywhere. Innovative companies worldwide use Ava Reveal™ for human-centric data loss protection and Ava Aware Cloud™ for video security and analytics. To learn more about Ava's smart solutions and how you can enjoy proactive security, visit our website or schedule a demo with a member of our sales team at sales@avasecurity.com.

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