



AVIGILON™

# ROGERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS CASE STUDY

## Rogers Public Schools Ace Safety With Avigilon Unity

In Northwest Arkansas, Rogers Public School (RPS) is a school district that serves more than 15,000 students and employs 2,100 staff. It is comprised of 16 elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools and an innovative charter school called Rogers New Technology High School.

Providing an environment of educational excellence where all belong, all learn and all succeed is RPS' mission. They achieve this by offering award-winning schools that provide a safe environment and a rich diversity of classmates who are encouraged to reach their highest potential as they prepare for college and their chosen careers. With a sprawling school district of 31 locations with 60 different buildings, RPS has spent much time and energy ensuring a safe and secure environment for all students and staff. But still, the district has faced challenges that required a large overhaul of its security operations.



**MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS**



# CHALLENGE

## Several Instances Of Vandalism And Theft

With 60 buildings spread over 3 million sq ft, RPS' security operations team had to deal with several instances of vandalism and theft, with some incidents leading to tens of thousands of dollars of damage and equipment being stolen.

The school district was unable to prosecute those committing the crimes and recover restitution because of its non-digital video security system. There were gaps in coverage and the quality of the video footage didn't provide clear, indisputable evidence. Their video security set-up was no longer able to meet the needs of the school district, and an entire revamp was required to help RPS tackle future incidents of vandalism and theft.

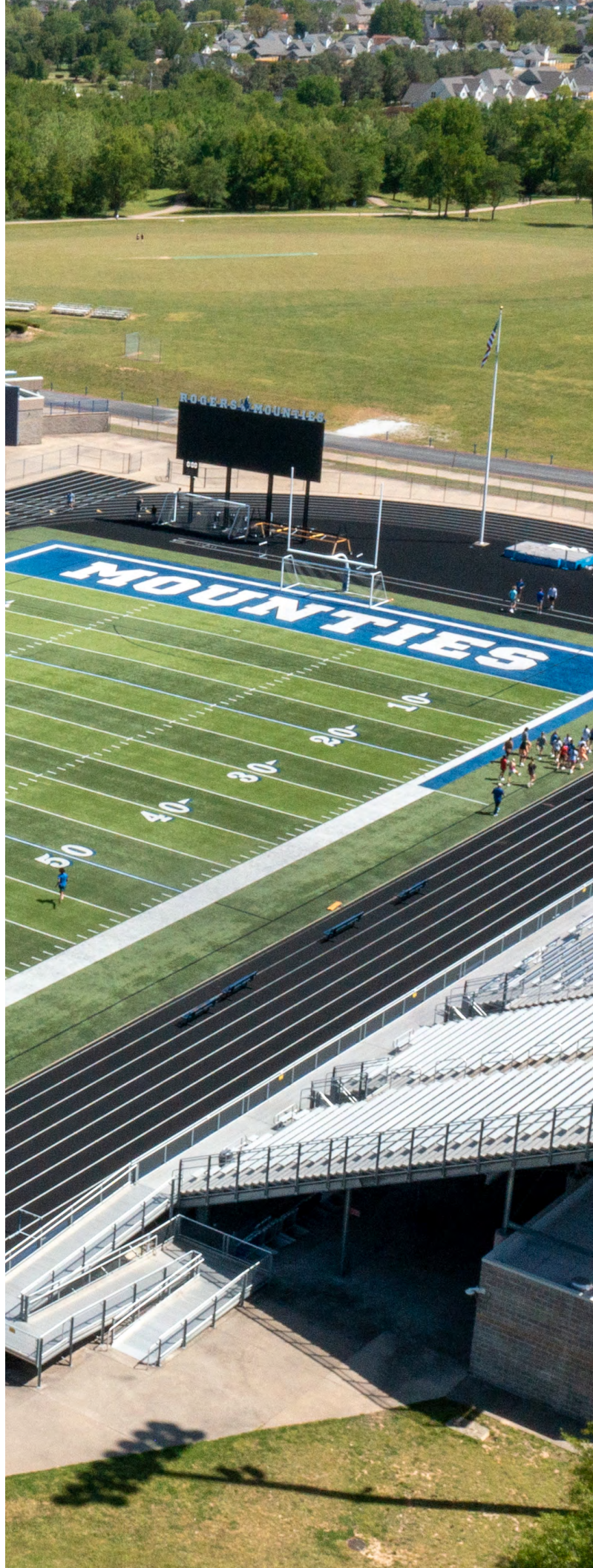
## Legacy Video Security System

RPS' original video security system lacked uniformity across the school district. It was designed to only cover entrances and exits across their buildings and offered no analytic capabilities. The resolution of the video security cameras was also inadequate to assist operators in positively identifying suspects when incidents occurred, and the system didn't allow the security team to monitor operations remotely.

## No Remote Access Control Management

It wasn't just video security that RPS had difficulty with. An outdated access control system, which was a key element in RPS' mission to provide a safe and secure learning environment, was beginning to take its toll on operations.

The system was over 25 years old and, like their video security solution, provided no remote management capabilities. This made routine tasks such as granting access, system programming and issuing credentials a real challenge as technicians were required to travel to each building to carry out these duties — it was tedious and wasted time that could be better utilized by the team.







## SOLUTIONS

RPS chose Avigilon, a Motorola Solutions company, and the Avigilon Unity suite of on-premise security technology.

RPS deployed an extensive range of advanced, AI-powered video security cameras, including the H5A camera line, the 360-degree panoramic H5A Fisheye camera, the bidirectional H5A Dual Head camera, the high-resolution H5 Pro and the H4 Multisensor. Most of the selected cameras feature Avigilon Next-Generation Video Analytics, including classified object detection and support for Avigilon Appearance Search technology. With classified object detection and Appearance Search, the security team can accurately detect and search for people and vehicles, leading to expedited incident response times. This helps to provide perimeter protection across their buildings and within crowded indoor and outdoor environments, such as cafeterias or sports fields.

These analytic-enabled cameras have been installed across the 60 buildings within the district, with cameras monitoring entrances and exits, hallways, parking lots, offices, gyms and cafeterias. The H5A Dual Head and the H4 Multisensor provide multiple angles of coverage from a single vantage point, therefore, removing the need for extra cameras. As only one license is required for each of

these cameras, they were a no-brainer for RPS from a cost-savings perspective.

To complement the security camera set-up, the security team procured the powerful Avigilon Unity Video software — a solution that the RPS security operators can use to remotely monitor and manage their video security across their school district.

To address the access control inefficiencies RPS had to handle, they procured Avigilon Unity Access. This physical access control system is designed to protect people and property, and operators are able to carry out daily tasks remotely as Unity Access is a 100% browser-based and mobile-enabled solution. When paired with Avigilon Unity Video, it offers a powerful, end-to-end security solution to monitor and secure sites.

Motorola Solutions, the parent company of Avigilon, is a US-based company that offers solutions that are FCC-authorized and NDAA-compliant. This influenced RPS' decision to select them as they could trust the company to provide future-proof technology backed with support. The school district also utilized ESSER funding to procure the products, another key factor that made the whole package more attractive.





We had an incident that resulted in \$60,000 USD worth of damage to one of our buildings. Our old security set-up would not have allowed us to investigate, but with Avigilon Unity, we were able to retrieve footage and access activity logs to identify the kids who caused the damage using Unity Video and Unity Access. This evidence was shared with police who were able to prosecute, and we were granted restitution.

– Dan Caley, Facilities Director at RPS

## THE BENEFITS

### Prosecute Criminals And Secure Restitution With Avigilon Unity

With Avigilon video security, RPS' security team can now receive automatic alerts of potential threats so operators can remotely monitor events and take appropriate action instantly. With the high-resolution recorded footage, RPS can provide clear evidence of a crime to the local police so they can prosecute responsible parties and collect restitution.

An incident over the summer break illustrates this perfectly. A staff member realized that several expensive Nikon cameras had gone missing from an area of the school that was under construction. To investigate the incident, the security team performed a motion search on Avigilon Unity Video. From that search, the team was able to see that a group of kids had trespassed and entered the building via the construction entrance and stole the cameras. With this information, the security team was able to identify the perpetrators and passed the footage to the local police, who were able to prosecute the group with breaking and entering, burglary and theft of property. By upgrading their video security system to not only offer better image detail but to also include AI-powered analytics, RPS saved a significant amount of time during the investigation, as they would have had to manually search through days worth of video if they didn't have motion search capabilities.

The Avigilon Unity Video security solution has not only helped to support the school district with crime on their property. Footage from the Avigilon cameras has also helped to support investigations into criminal cases that have occurred close by to RPS' buildings, where the cameras were able to pick up and identify potential suspects and victims, ultimately helping to make the community safer.

### Flexible Access Control Management

With Avigilon Unity Access, RPS' security operations team no longer needs to travel to each building to grant access or carry out other daily procedures thanks to the solution's remote management capabilities. From their control room, on the go or even from home after school hours, the security team can efficiently manage district-wide access by granting access to staff and visitors or issuing or deactivating someone's access credentials with ease. Unity Access is the complete access control solution for RPS as it meets the requirements of all stakeholders, whether that be day-to-day operations, remote access management or lockdown capabilities during emergencies.

### Unified Security System Delivers Results

The power of a unified security system can not be overstated. By combining Avigilon Unity Video and Access, RPS' security capabilities have been vastly improved, and its application across multiple school and district issues has been very beneficial. From dealing with student disciplinary, including truancy, to tracking the location of a lost student, RPS can rely on the combined power of real-time video footage and access control logs to detect, monitor and react to potential events.

This convergence of technology also extends to RPS' Motorola Solutions APX 900 and APX 1500 P25 radios, which provide daily two-way communication for busses, schools and staff. When utilized alongside Avigilon Unity Video and Unity Access, security teams can seamlessly handle situations, such as a missing student, by analyzing video and communicating via their radios to coordinate a response. The radios offer statewide coverage and are also linked to the local police and first responders' communications systems, which particularly comes in handy when dealing with emergency situations where reliable communication is crucial to ensuring safety and a positive outcome.







The impact of using Avigilon Unity was immediate. We saw a great improvement in image quality from all our Avigilon cameras and the system's video analytics have enhanced the coverage of our sites. Now, we are instantly alerted of any developing threats so we can respond proactively and stop them from escalating. If an incident does occur, the investigation takes minutes rather than hours or days.

– Dan Caley, Facilities Director at RPS

## CONCLUSION

With the Avigilon Unity solution, Rogers Public Schools are in a much better place to handle safety and security across their expansive school district. By being proactive with their security operations, the team is able to reassure principals, staff and parents that they have the technology to establish and maintain safety, even if a major incident should arise.

RPS continues to expand its Avigilon security system, adding in new video security and access control technology as their needs evolve, so that the security operation team, admin and staff can carry out their duties effectively and provide the best environment for students to flourish.







To learn more, visit:  
[www.avigilon.com](http://www.avigilon.com)



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