



At a Glance

Challenges

- Protecting multiple schools within a large district
- Current access control system not meeting expectations
- Needed the ability to schedule doors around pick-up and drop-off times

Benefits

- Interoperability to work with current network and not rip and replace
- Build and scale a cost-effective solution with deep integrations
- Ability to deploy district wide lock-downs if needed to protect all



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— John Glaser, *Emergency Systems Integration Manager*, Katy ISD

Katy Independent School District Leverages Access Control Solutions from RS2 Technologies to Protect Students, Faculty, and Staff

The Customer

Katy Independent School District (ISD) is a public school district based in Katy, Texas, just outside of Houston, with an enrollment of more than 83,000 students. It is made up of 72 schools, grades pre-K through 12th, and covers 181 square miles. The district has an annual budget of \$988 million and almost 10,000 employees.

The Challenge

As educational facilities face a variety of threats on a near-daily basis, it's critical for security leaders and decision-makers to be able to secure multiple schools within a large district using a user-friendly access control solution. That was the goal security leaders within Katy ISD had in mind when it began searching for a solution that could be implemented across the entire district.

While Katy ISD had an access control solution in place, it was not meeting the expectations of the team and functioning at the level that the district needed to ensure protection for its staff and students. Working with Allegion, a leading provider in the safety and security market, Katy ISD began its search for an access control solution that would evolve with the needs of the school district and ensure a level of safety that the community required.

“The biggest priority for us was for safety and security, as well as the need we had for monitoring activity across multiple campuses at the same time,” said John Glaser, Emergency Systems Integration Manager for Katy ISD. “The ability also to implement widespread lock-downs is especially important with the threats we face today.”

“Although we had another solution in place, it wasn’t consistent across the district and was expensive.”

Katy ISD also needed the ability to schedule doors according to pick-up and drop-off times, as well as securing a campus once school was in session – all without having to send someone with a physical key to manually do so. “While we had another solution in place in some of our facilities, it wasn’t consistent across the district, so we were pretty much a ‘lock-and-key’ system, which is expensive, time-consuming, and unsafe in today’s threat landscape,” Glaser said.

It was clear the school system was moving toward card access throughout the entire district, and it needed a system that could support the transition. Interoperability was also a big factor, as the district did not want to completely rip and replace its existing access control readers and cameras.

The Solution

While Katy ISD had another solution in place, Scott Donahue, Physical Security Coordinator for Katy ISD, said that the solution in place was not capable of delivering all of the functionality that the district needed to be successful. “Knowing we were going to be adding card access throughout our entire district, we knew we had to come up with a better solution to get the kind of results we needed,” he said. Interoperability was also a big factor, as the district did not want to completely rip and replace its existing access control readers and cameras.

Katy ISD worked with system integrator Fisk Electric, who recommended RS2 Technologies for its advanced access control platform. Leveraging RS2 Technologies Access It! Universal enterprise access control software, the school district could customize the feature sets needed to build and scale a cost-effective system with deep integrations to



cutting-edge technologies. In addition, Allegion recommended Schlage AD-400 wireless locks for Katy ISD. “Our mission was to help Katy ISD find the best solution for their district, which is why we recommended Schlage AD-400 wireless locks,” said Michael Voss, Allegion project sales manager, and hardware consultant for Katy ISD. “Being wireless, the AD-400 electronic locks could be easily installed on more doors at a lower cost than a wired solution, which would help the school achieve a comprehensive lock-down solution.”

The RS2 platform was the only one that integrated with the district’s video management system, Digital Watchdog, as well as the Bosch intrusion platform. Allegion was on hand throughout the project and supported the integration of more than 2200 Schlage locks and MT readers across all of the facilities in the district, including the district’s \$70 million football stadium.

The Results

Access It! Universal is installed across all of the Katy ISD schools, and the district is currently in the process of implementing several safety and security upgrades that help incorporate the solution into other facilities where it's currently not used - close to 100 locations. RS2 also serves as direct support to the district, which came in handy during Hurricane Harvey when the university housed first responders in their schools. The application server also ended up underwater and RS2 was instrumental in helping get them back online and set up in a higher location.

The implementation of the Access It! Universal solution, along with Schlage locks and readers, has helped Katy ISD transition from primarily a "lock and key" district to a full exterior and front entry access control solutions district, which has ultimately made students, faculty, and staff safer.

"The solution has completely changed how our staff, students, and the public now enter our buildings, making it safer and easier to monitor," Donahue said.

The Access It! Universal solution allows security leaders to lock-down and secure a building or campus at a moment's notice, with each school having a lock-down button and protocols for a shelter-in-place situation. Additionally, in the event of criminal activity in the area or even a weather-related emergency, administrators within each school have the ability to issue their own lock-down through the RS2 system.

Access for administrators and the district's police department is also more streamlined, as the RS2 platform supports a "double-tap" feature that allows principals to unlock doors for short periods of time for special functions or groups with just a double-tap of their access card. The police department is also able to have priority access to every door on every campus, making emergency response more streamlined. The Access It! Universal platform can also pull in relevant video data tied to specific access control events - like a forced door entry - so that security leaders can look at the incident right away and download the video for an investigation as needed.

The long-term goal of Katy ISD is to fully incorporate camera functionality into the platform to have a single-pane-of-glass view across all of the district's facilities.

Katy ISD also required the ability for dispatchers in the SAC to remotely secure a facility and inform the school of any issues that may arise to let them know that the buildings would be going into a lock-down. "This is a really big deal for our schools to have because if there's a threat, time is of the essence," Glaser said. "When a school goes into lock-down, the Access It! Universal platform communicates directly to the teachers and administrators, as well as signals strobe flashing or alarms in the schools to signify an emergency."

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A LITTLE ABOUT US

RS2 simplifies access security and puts the customer first.

RS2 Technologies has long been recognized for its open platform architecture approach that provides more options for customers across a wide range of markets. Known for its customer service and training focus, RS2 has stayed in tune with the demands of the security industry, as well as its integrator and dealer partners.

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