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Your Lesson Plan for Upgrading Campus Security

The Opportunity

U.S. schools have a rare and valuable opportunity to receive federal funds to upgrade their security technology. The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, passed on March 11, 2021, earmarked $122.8 billion to state education boards and school districts to safely reopen and resume operations after the disruption caused by COVID. This grant covers technology that addresses the health and safety of students, educators, and staff. Moreover, until August 16, 2021, the Bureau of Justice Assistance was accepting applications for funding under the Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant Program. The program specifically includes school safety technology. Various states make other security grants available as well, and counties around the country have approved expenditures for school security.

As the physical and cyber threat to schools grows, security must be prioritized.

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In addition, many states have announced grant programs to bolster school security. For example, Maryland has provided Baltimore County Public Schools, the 24th largest school district in the US, with funding to enhance security technology, and voters in Edmond, Oklahoma, have passed a bond package that allocates $750,000 to upgrade school security, including electronic access control solutions.

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The Benefits

As schools reopen after more than a year of virtual-only instruction, they face numerous needs. But since the physical and cyber threat at schools continues to climb, security must be a top priority.

Investing in security tech upgrades provides schools and districts tangible benefits like:

More Visibility and Control
- Monitor and control at the school and district levels
- Track visitors, parents, volunteers, contractors, etc.
- Remotely access the system from anywhere with network connectivity
- Visualize and manage all from one platform
- Search video and data rapidly
- Collect analytics and deploy solutions that can reduce dangerous hallway crowding, highlight peak times for bullying incidents
- Standardize across the district for consistent administration and comparable analytics

Improved Communication
- Monitor and control at the school and district levels
- District-wide mass notification
- On-site emergency communications system
- Panic and duress systems
- Mobile apps and social media

Health and Safety
- Ensure compliance with Covid protocols, such as mask use, hallway traffic, androom occupancy
- Contact reporting
- Vaccine validation

Rapid Response
- Lockdown feature at the push of a button
- Mobile management and access
- Ability to change access permissions across multiple schools and facilities instantly, as in the case of a terminated teacher or staff member

Cybersecurity
- Robust cybersecurity protocols on physical security technology to prevent hacking, malware, ransomware attacks, etc.
- Integrated, cyber-hardened components to prevent access from security technology to the district's broader IT network
- Protection of grades, assignments, papers, etc. from tampering or alteration

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Why now?

A recent Campus Security article pointed out that, "[In] Campus Safety's 2021 Access Control & Lockdown Deep Dive Survey, 84% of respondents say they've purchased access control systems. That's 22% points more than what was revealed in our 2019 survey. However, fewer 2021 survey respondents say they can lockdown 100% of their campuses."

Unfortunately, that's not an issue most campuses can afford to ignore. More students will be back to campuses this fall and the more traditional security concerns around gun violence will inevitably resurface.

Campuses can, and should, be using access control technology to address COVID specific safety concerns, but that technology must also be able to perform critical emergency procedures like campus-wide lockdowns in a worst-case scenario.

Now is the time to make sure the campus technology you have to secure your students and protect lives is dependable and truly meets your needs.

The Solution

The most flexible access control solutions that are able to offer the most features are cloud-based. Some operational benefits of cloud-based access control include:

- Lower up-front system and installation costs makes your security dollar go further
- Minimal system maintenance and personnel requirements; cloud service providers handle security, maintenance, upgrades, updates, patching, etc.
- Enabling easier remote and mobile management for a school, a campus or across a district

Most importantly, these more flexible systems and consistently upgraded and maintained systems can help meet your security and safety requirements around COVID and around emergency situations.New features and capabilities are introduced consistently and only improve your efficiency and security.

The most modern security technology is available to you now and the federal and state funding that is coming available means there is no better time than now to make sure your campus is secure.

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Why Brivo?

Monitor Campus

Manage Access

Control Security

Brivo provides uncompromised safety for your students and staff. When trust is a privilege and lives are in your hands, don't compromise, choose the best. Brivo Access is built to help you identify and predict anomalous behavior, manage access to all the buildings on campus, and lockdown some or all buildings at a moments notice in the case of an emergency. New powerful security features improve efficiency and provide real-time awareness of your school.

Talk to a Brivo Expert Today

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