INNOVATING SECURITY

at Oakland Unified School District

AIPHONE CASE STUDY

Solution: IX | IXG Series

COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY NEEDS SOLVED WITH A COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

OUSD used a proactive approach to strengthen their security infrastructure and create a safer learning environment for students and staff through meticulous planning, collaboration with industry experts, and a steadfast commitment to excellence.

> " *We've done similar systems for other districts, but the quality of Aiphone's system integrated with Cisco and Milestone is a cost-effective solution when compared with other competing products.* "
>
> **David Dickstein**
> Integrator, Deco Tech Systems

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Ensuring the safety and security of students, staff, and visitors within educational institutions stands as an ever-pressing priority, particularly in today's dynamic landscape. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the bustling corridors of Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), one of California's largest, serving over 45,000 students across a diverse array of traditional and charter schools.

Nestled in the vibrant Bay Area, OUSD's commitment to fostering a safe and nurturing learning environment is unwavering. However, like many school districts across the country, OUSD faced challenges in modernizing its security infrastructure to meet the evolving demands of the 21st century.

Antiquated doorbell systems and occasional vulnerabilities with doors left ajar underscored the pressing need for a comprehensive solution. Recognizing this imperative, OUSD embarked on a journey to revitalize its security framework, leveraging state funding to propel their efforts forward.

OUSD selected our IX Series, a scalable IP video intercom designed to provide seamless integration with other security platforms.

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Kyle Brower, OUSD's project manager, emphasized the necessity for a "robust solution facilitating direct visitor communication with the administration office eliminating the need for stationed personnel by the door." Collaborating closely with Deco Tech Systems, Brower's team sought a reliable intercom solution capable of meeting diverse needs.

> " *We required a robust solution... eliminating the need to have stationed personnel by every door.* "
>
> **Kyle Brower**
> Project Manager, OUSD

WHY SHOULD SCHOOLS INCORPORATE AN AIPHONE SOLUTION?

Better Workflow, Safer Communication

Aiphone systems facilitate direct communication between visitors and the administration office. Staff can identify and speak with visitors from a multitude of locations in the school.

Immediate Response

With Aiphone intercoms in place, school staff can quickly and appropriately react to notifications to keep visitor traffic moving and minimize vulnerabilities.
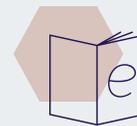
Access Control

Empower staff to grant or deny visitor access from a secure location, eliminating the urge to leave doors propped open or unlocked and the requirement to have personnel at entrances.

Documentation and Accountability

Video intercom systems provide valuable documentation of visitor interactions, aiding in investigations and ensuring accountability in the event of security incidents or disputes.

Integration and Comprehensive Security

Incorporating intercoms into the security framework complements other measures such as surveillance cameras and access control systems, creating a multi-layered approach to school security that enhances overall effectiveness and resilience against potential threats. These integrations streamline operations, enhances efficiency, and maximizes cost savings by creating a unified platform for managing security measures across the school district.

To learn more approaches for keeping students safe, download our Campus Security eBook at **aiphone.com/campusebook**

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Selecting Aiphone's IX Series, an IP video intercom designed to be scalable and provide seamless integration with third-party security platforms, OUSD initiated a district-wide deployment. Within a year, over 35 schools were furnished with vandal-resistant IP video door stations, including the surface mounted IX-DV, the mullion mounted IX-DVM, the flush mounted IX-DVF, and the flush mounted IX-DVF-4A with four call buttons. These stations efficiently notify school staff of both expected and unexpected visitors.

After entering Metwest's main entrance, an additional layer of screening was implemented to enhance protection for the school's valuable equipment and its students.

The four-call door station provides a convenient way to request access to different areas within Metwest High School and the district's on-site TV studio.

Kyle Hunt, Aiphone's Northern California Regional Sales Manager, emphasized the critical nature of integration across various security layers. "Regardless of the unique physical or aesthetic requirements of each location, we were able to offer the school district several different intercom options from our IX Series to meet their needs," he stated. He continued, "no matter which IX Series components they selected, integration with other systems was paramount."

Confronting operation obstacles, Dan Augustine, OUSD's senior network engineer, noted "One of the challenges we faced was that office staff were finding they would have four phones: one for paging, one for outside calls, one for inside calls, and another for the door. Over the past few years, we've moved from a four-phone situation to one as part of our effort to converge solutions."
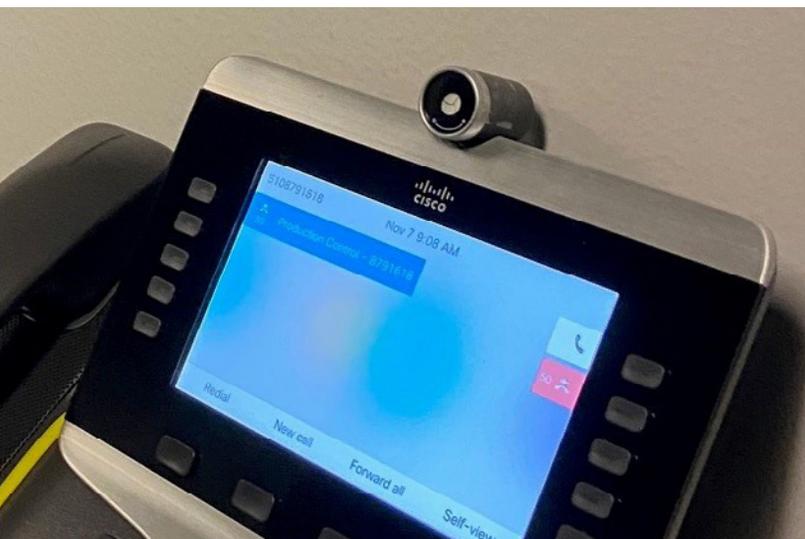
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Emphasizing the flexibility of integrating with the existing phone system, Colleen Calvano, executive director of technology services for OUSD had said, "We can integrate Aiphone with a telephone that will pick up a door station call from any building in the district where we need coverage."

Leveraging Cisco video desk phones and seamlessly integrating with Milestone's XProtect VMS, OUSD enhanced security by streamlining communication and centralizing security management. These improvements added depth to their security practices by providing a familiar user interface for school staff while meeting compliance and accountability standards for administration.

Deco Tech Systems found the installation and integration of the IX Series particularly impressive. According to Owner David Dickstein, "We've implemented similar systems for other districts, but the caliber of Aiphone's system, seamlessly integrated with Cisco and Milestone, offers a cost-effective yet comprehensive solution compared to other competing products."

At Laurel Elementary, an Aiphone surface mounted door station made it simple for visitors, students, and staff to request access into the school.

Tapping into the Cisco® phone system ensures that OUSD isn't limited by the location of any particular Aiphone product.

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More than 70 percent of buildings now boast newly installed intercom systems. Additional funding has been allocated to install systems in another 10 schools in 2024. Ultimately, OUSD aims to have an Aiphone IP video intercom system installed in every school building in the district.

With Milestone® VMS integration, the school district can easily record and review video footage from each of the Aiphone call stations.

Integrating the Aiphone intercom and phone systems together was a cost-effective solution that continues to centralize communication for OUSD staff.

SCHOOLS IN THE U.S. LEVERAGE ACCESS CONTROL AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT

98%
of schools require visitors to check in and wear badges

97%
of schools control access into their buildings

91%
of schools use security cameras to monitor their campuses

70%
of schools provide electronic notification for emergencies

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Speak to your local Aiphone expert.

Tell us about your Aiphone success story.