

Use Case:

Enhancing Safety and Operational Efficiency for a Virginia School District



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The Customer

One of Virginia's largest school districts is focused on establishing a safe and technologically advanced learning environment for its 190,000 students and 25,000 staff across 250 buildings. To achieve its mission, the district has leveraged its long-standing relationship with Convergent to move beyond routine security support for security, achieving noteworthy advancements in fire and life safety and mass notifications.

Business Objective

In its commitment to providing high-quality education for students in a safe environment, the Virginia school district sought a vendor capable of:

- Providing fire code advisement
- Robust inspection and assessment practices
- Understanding of industry and government best practices
- Testing, maintenance, and service support team (ITM)
- Turnkey installation to deliver best-in-class school fire and life safety

Convergent was fully aligned with the safety goal of the Virginia school district, offering reliable and cost-effective solutions and services to meet their needs.

The Process

Convergent diligently performed all annual ITM inspections and Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) inspections, acting as a liaison with the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) which resulted in less than 1% system downtime. These collaborative efforts extend beyond the fire alarm inspections to encompass after-hour and stand-by services. Additionally, Convergent executed numerous turn-key and integrated fire alarm system replacements.

To optimize response times, Convergent collaborates with the Virginia school district to implement Fireworks, a centralized monitoring tool. This monitoring tool enables real-time status checks, allowing for quicker response times to off-normal conditions. It also validates every inspection thereby ensuring the system's integrity.

Expanding beyond fire alarm systems, Convergent also fortifies the public address system to support mass notification. This involves the meticulous maintenance of existing systems and the strategic replacement of obsolete ones, resulting in a reliable communication system for routine and emergency purposes.

Results and Next Steps

The partnership with Convergent has yielded significant outcomes for the Virginia school district including:

- Providing fire code advisement
- Achieving operational excellence
- Maintaining less than 1% system downtime through annual fire inspections
- Ensuring fire code compliance with no Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) deficiencies through a comprehensive approach
- Enhancing emergency preparedness with the implementation of FireWorks
- Supporting routine and emergency announcements with upgraded communication systems
- Leveraging cooperative purchasing contracts with neighboring districts to ensure compliance and cost efficiency

This collaboration has minimized disruptions and resulted in an uninterrupted learning environment. In conclusion, the partnership has surpassed its mission, leaving a positive, lasting impact on the entire Virginia school district system.

About Convergent

Convergent is a \$2.5 billion global, industry-leading systems integrator that designs, installs, and services electronic security, cybersecurity, fire and life safety, building automation, and audio-visual systems. Listed as the #1 systems integrator in SDM Magazine's Top Systems Integrators Report for the past 7 years, Convergent leads with over 10,000 colleagues and more than 220 locations worldwide. To learn more about Convergent, visit www.convergent.com

