Why Apps Are Not Enough

As our country grapples with school shootings nationwide, it is becoming a hard-learned, but valuable lesson for many school administrators and law enforcement officials that effective lockdown response goes far beyond just a phone app-based notification system.

While the intent is good, the results of using just this one form of technology simply don't fully address the many variables that come into play during an emergency situation. These solutions require a set of necessary conditions to function properly, including a reliance on human intervention that is predicated on access to a smart device to activate the emergency message system, as well as receive the notifications. These required circumstances may not always be present, and when they are not, the effectiveness of the text-only system will surely be reduced.

The Pitfalls of App-Based and Text-Only Solutions

To learn more about LENS + OPTICS, the comprehensive emergency notification system and continuous monitoring service that schools rely upon to keep their communities safe, scan this QR code.

- ☒ Poor cellular and/or Wi-Fi coverage throughout school buildings

- ☒ Rules restricting student cell phone use

- ☒ Guidelines restricting educator and staff cell phone use

- ☒ Lack of access during physical and technical education, outdoor time, lab coursework, and after-school activities

- ☒ Inequity of access for students who do not have cell phones (e.g.: most small children may not have cell phones)

- ☒ Inequity of access for students with certain special needs or disabilities

- ☒ Inequity of access for visitors and substitute educators

- ☒ Lack of integration with school safety technologies including access control systems, VoIP multi-line phone systems, bells, and paging systems

- ☒ Single-mode notifications leave room for human error during real-life emergency responses

- ☒ The single-channel approach ignores the complexities of effective school-wide emergency notification

EASTERN DATACOMM

Established in 1988

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The Benefits of a Comprehensive Emergency Notification and Response System

There are a variety of considerations when it comes to responding to an emergency including personnel, process, protocol, and technology. From multi-line phone systems and strong internet connections, to PA systems and video surveillance, these pieces interact with one another in ways that are truly unique to each school.

When used in isolation, application-based solutions leave clear vulnerabilities, as evidenced by the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Though applications can be useful tools to help broadcast emergency notifications, it's clear that using them in conjunction with these other technology components best fosters the safest school safety ecosystem possible.

Hallmarks of a Comprehensive Emergency Notification Solution

- ☑ Communicates information fast, without relying on Wi-Fi or cellular service alone
- ☑ Offers multiple modes of notification so that students, staff, and visitors are informed swiftly
- ☑ Provides clear and consistent emergency notification across indoor and outdoor spaces
- ☑ Effectively notifies students in unique locations (e.g.: labs, gyms, and cafeterias)
- ☑ Clearly communicates emergency information to police and other first responders in seconds
- ☑ Offers accessible notifications to students with special needs or disabilities
- ☑ Delivers notification to everyone inside and outside of the buildings, including visitors
- ☑ Integrates with VoIP phone systems, bells, paging systems, and access control systems
- ☑ Includes automation that greatly reduces the chance of human error during emergencies
- ☑ Recognizes and addresses the vulnerabilities and complexities of each school environment

Enhance Your School-Wide Communications and Physical Security with Technology Solutions from Eastern DataComm

*For a holistic approach to keeping your community safe,
contact Eastern DataComm at inquiry@easterndatacomm.com
for a complimentary School Safety Consultation.*

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