



How **IoT** Can Take School Safety to New Heights

HOW IoT CAN TAKE SCHOOL SAFETY TO NEW HEIGHTS

What's IoT, and what does it have to do with school safety?

Technology and education continue to grow together in our schools, not only for improved instruction and learning, but also for bolstering safety initiatives to **keep our places of learning safe and secure.**

You may have heard of the new buzz phrase in the tech world: “**internet of things,**” which is commonly referred to as “**IoT.**” Internet of things or IoT technology can come in a variety of forms, but they are essentially **smart devices** or **systems** that allow the **automatic transfer of data** between other devices or systems. For example, imagine a smart home with a thermostat, light fixtures, security system, and speakers that can be controlled by a smartphone connected to the smart home's system.

While IoT has made a splash in consumer and industrial markets, **more and more schools** are turning to this cutting-edge technology to streamline their school safety by creating a **network of safety systems and devices** that can communicate amongst each other for a more efficient and effective approach to school safety that reduces the time it takes to detect, respond to, and resolve emergencies.

Since IoT technology for school safety is still an emerging trend, there's a lot that school safety leaders need to catch up on to fully understand the importance of leveraging this kind of technology for school safety. This document aims to shed light on the value of utilizing IoT for school safety and site examples of how this can be achieved.

IoT SAFETY SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE

What IoT Options Are Out There?

There are literally too many potential IoT devices and systems to name, with the integration opportunities numbering in the hundreds, if not thousands. However, the list of **common applications of IoT technology in school safety** is much more manageable. While this is not an exhaustive list, these devices and systems are becoming more commonly used as IoT school safety:



One-click help buttons



Video monitoring



Access control



Visitor management



Door barricades



Gunshot detection



Vape detection



Digital signage



Phone systems



Public address systems



Online activity monitoring



Interoperability platforms

The idea is that any combination of the aforementioned devices and systems can be integrated with a **school district's digital safety platform** to make sure that the safety technology your schools rely on can work together by sharing information and streamlining the process of notification and response instead of operating in individual silos and requiring your safety staff to monitor and manage separate pieces of your safety infrastructure.

HOW IoT WORKS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

How Does It All Come Together?

Since the whole point of leveraging IoT in school safety is to **streamline your current processes** by allowing your devices and systems to communicate and work together, it's critical that your smart devices be connected through a unified network or communication platform.

Doing so creates a **two-way communication stream** between your life-saving technology and the people who utilize it to keep everyone safe. For example, IoT devices like sensors, help buttons, video surveillance, and IT warnings can be setup to trigger alerts in your communication platform, which automatically notifies the proper response personnel and — if the situation warrants — even first responders. At the same time, your safety team or first responders can **initiate emergency alerts** from your communication platform to activate paging systems, door locks and barricades, sirens, strobes, digital signage, video surveillance, IT applications, and more.



To put things in perspective, imagine a situation where your schools have IoT sensors for your boiler and heating and cooling system. If a critical issue occurred and the school's boiler went out, an **alert would automatically be sent** out to your safety staff to immediately notify them of the issue and allow them to swiftly coordinate a response.

Alternatively, you could also have IoT devices for electric door locks and strobes installed at your schools. If a violent individual or potential active shooter was spotted on campus, your staff could send out an emergency alert through their communication platform and the door locks and strobes would automatically activate to keep your staff and students safe while warning anyone else of the danger at hand.

These are just a few examples of the power of using IoT for school safety, but in each circumstance the **key point** is that your safety and security systems can work **faster and smarter** by streamlining their processes with the instant and automatic sharing of critical data.



HOW IoT MAKES SCHOOL SAFETY MORE EFFICIENT AND AFFORDABLE TO IMPLEMENT

How Can Your Schools Implement IoT?

Changes to any aspect of a school district can take time, and safety-related changes can sometimes be complex; however, **school safety cannot afford to wait.**

Smart devices provide an **efficient, effective, and affordable solution** to school safety that can be rolled out to your schools in a **matter of days**, not weeks. While some of the IoT safety solutions we've mentioned vary in price and intensity for implementation, there are viable options that can be quickly implemented **without costing too much.**

IoT help buttons, for example, can provide both your regular staff and auxiliary staff (substitute teachers, contract workers, and volunteers) with a **help button on their person.** If an emergency occurs or they need assistance from your safety staff, all they have to do is **press a button.** It's as simple as a staff member clicking the button to trigger a safety alert and your onsite safety team being immediately notified.



This type of safety technology is easy to use, affordable to purchase, and it can be used in a variety of ways to cover your school safety needs. IoT help buttons, for example, can be:



Easily installed as a help button in any classroom.



Worn with credentials on a lanyard for substitute teachers.



Staff assist fob for auxiliary employees and volunteers.



Staff or student help button for field trips and events.



Backup help button for staff who aren't tech-savvy.

IoT technology also allows you to **build out school safety** without needing to replace everything all at once. In addition to IoT devices offering a vital safety function on their own, they can be integrated into your existing technology and safety systems. The cost of retrofitting your buildings and classrooms with hardwired panic buttons is expensive and takes time, but IoT devices provide an **affordable** and **effective solution** that can be **quickly implemented**. IoT devices require minimal setup and training, and the low cost of these devices allows you to equip your entire district with technology that can potentially save lives.

KEEPING UP WITH THE GROWING THREATS & THE TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN MITIGATE THEM

There's no slowing the growth of technology, and it's a somber but true fact that **threats to school safety also continue to grow**. As school leaders, you are in charge of making sure that every child in your schools receives the best education possible, and creating and maintaining **a safe learning environment** is paramount to your responsibility.

Just as computers replaced pen and paper methods for curriculum and tablets and digital devices have been introduced to classrooms to help students stay engaged, schools must also **look to technology** to bring their **safety protocols** and **resources** up to the standards required today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Many schools across the country still use limited technology like radios and PA systems to manage the bulk of their safety communication, and many schools are still relying on pen and paper methods to account for students and report safety issues. As a leader in safety for your schools, you don't want your district to be left in the stone age of safety. There are many resources available that can enhance safety in your schools, no matter what the state of your resources and protocols are right now. **IoT technology is one of those opportunities**, and your students, staff, and community can benefit from harnessing the power of technology for improved school safety.





CRISIS GO

See How CrisisGo Helps Schools Leverage IoT Technology to Improve School Safety.

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CrisisGo's digital safety and crisis response platform offers a comprehensive approach to school safety that allows schools districts to manage the full scope of school safety. We believe that streamlined communication and collaboration is critical for both preventing and responding to emergencies., and our platform puts communication at the center of safety. Our platform allows schools to integrate IoT technology in order to cover the full scope of school safety needs.