

# Financial Services News

## Keeping Kids Safe at School

There isn't a parent alive who doesn't go home and hold their child a little tighter every time another story of school violence is on the news. Securing schools and other public buildings while maintaining an open atmosphere that supports learning and provides citizens with the access they need can be very challenging.

No one wants their school, county courthouse or city hall to look or feel like a prison, but we all need to know that our children are safe at school while we safely conduct business with our local governments.

Sherman Independent School District (ISD), located 60 miles north of Dallas, takes safety and security very seriously. With responsibility for 12 schools, more than 6,000 students, and nearly 500 teachers, Sherman ISD already had an emergency preparedness plan, close interaction with local law enforcement and continual monitoring of national security directives.

Recently, however, school officials sought to upgrade their existing security system. The district found the solution they were looking for through GTSI, a provider of IT infrastructure solutions. Because GTSI is a U.S. Communities supplier, Sherman ISD was able to easily procure the solution they wanted quickly and at an exceptional price.

"In order to provide our students, teachers and parents with first-rate customer service, it is imperative that we work with partners like GTSI that can provide us with an exceptional, cost-effective physical security solution," said Chuck Edwards, director of Maintenance and Operations at Sherman Independent Schools District in Sherman, Texas. "We're satisfied that this system not only meets our needs today but has the flexibility to evolve with the changes within our school district down the road."

GTSI worked with Sherman ISD to design a new security system that integrates video surveillance, interior-intrusion detection and a comprehensive alarm system that monitors for burglary, fire and emergency.

Sherman ISD's integrated security system is primarily designed to protect its students and teachers but it will also serve as a security countermeasure to manage risk, reduce theft and vandalism, and protect critical infrastructure. The system design integrates the security components onto one platform providing the school system with the capability to easily manage, monitor and record activities at each of its schools from a single software application.

Furthermore, the security system's open architecture allows for future growth in terms of the number of facilities, surveillance cameras, distance from sites, and recording and storage time.

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