

# Lincoln County Schools

## Building a modern, connected school safety strategy



### Name

Lincoln County Schools

### Industries

Education K-12

### Location

Lincoln County, North Carolina,  
United States

### Products

Security Center, Synergis, Omnicast

### Partners

Radionix



## Lincoln County Schools modernizes district-wide security, unifying video, access control, intrusion, and more within Security Center

Lincoln County Schools (LCS) is a well-loved public school district in North Carolina, United States. With over 11,000 students across 23 schools, the district is always bustling with activity. It includes 13 elementary schools, four middle schools, four high schools, a technology school, and an alternative school. Another four buildings support district-wide services, including school nutrition, bus transportation, and maintenance. The LCS staff keep safety front and center, helping students remain focused on growth and academic success.

### Moving away from outdated school safety tech

Providing a safe and supportive school environment is central to LCS's mission. When the district's existing school security technology began showing its age, they knew they needed to modernize.

At the top of LCS's requirements was an open, unified security platform. They wanted the freedom to reuse some existing video and access control hardware, while upgrading devices as needed. They were also looking to improve efficiency across the board. This involved managing video, access control, and intrusion systems within a single solution, as well as connecting other school systems, such as the human resource database, within the platform to enhance process automation.

According to Steven Hoyle, Chief Technology Officer for Lincoln County Schools, Genetec Security Center hit all their key requirements in one intuitive, cost-conscious solution. "We needed more than the basics, but not one packed with a million features we'd never use. Genetec Security Center offered us a great option," noted Hoyle. "We have the features we need in one solution that's easy to use and fits our budget."

### Streamlining the district-wide upgrade with Security Center

Today, LCS has made strides in converting security systems over to the Genetec platform. So far, all high schools have been upgraded with Omnicast™ video surveillance, Synergis™ access control, and [Radionix](#) (formerly Bosch) intrusion detection, and unified within Security Center. When complete, over 1,300 cameras, 500 doors, and hundreds of intrusion sensors across all buildings will connect to Security Center.

"Genetec Security Center is a modern, streamlined platform in which all security components are built to work together. We also have greater opportunities to modernize our operations, simplify maintenance, and even automate tasks. All of this reduces our workload and costs," explained Hoyle.

Choosing an open platform has helped streamline the district-wide upgrade. The IT team was able to keep a lot of existing

video and access control hardware, while migrating to newer devices at their own pace.

“I never want to get stuck in a proprietary ecosystem again. Genetec Security Center supports a wide range of third-party technologies, and that’s been a huge bonus for us. We have the freedom to keep some existing hardware, upgrade to newer devices, and integrate other business systems. This helps us find the right balance between enhancing security and managing costs. And we can do it at our own pace, taking our time to re-evaluate needs and make decisions from there,” said Hoyle.

### Ease of training and operations

Since installing Security Center, LCS has received positive feedback from Security Resource Officers (SROs) across the district. The platform has been easy to learn, ensuring SROs and other school staff can confidently use the system.

“Having an intuitive platform like Security Center has reduced training time and costs and given our team more autonomy. Our IT team no longer needs to train people on three different products. Furthermore, features like map layouts and intuitive searches make it much easier for staff to quickly find information and get answers. It’s a far more efficient process that saves everyone time and improves our school security,” explained Hoyle.

Since investing in Security Center, the LCS team has also begun to digitize processes and automate tasks. Part of this has involved integrating Microsoft Active Directory and a Radionix intrusion detection system within the platform.

With Active Directory integration, the human resources (HR) team no longer needs to enter data in two different systems or manually add cardholders and assign privileges. As soon as a new staff member is added to their HR database, all cardholder privileges are automatically assigned based on their job, role, and location. Certain staff members, such as SROs and principals, also receive access to the video system at their school, further streamlining processes.

“The Active Directory integration has been a big added value in terms of time savings and enhanced building security. When someone gets onboarded or leaves our employment, everything from door and system access gets automatically activated and deactivated,” explained Hoyle.

Radionix intrusion detection users and Genetec Security Center cardholders are synchronized. Staff use their access cards to arm or disarm an area. Each school only needs a single administrative



keypad for programming. It’s a simpler, more secure approach that reduces the risk of sharing codes and gives the IT team better visibility on who’s in the building.

“In the past, intrusion alarms would sometimes be activated when someone was still in the building, resulting in many false alarms. Now, staff can badge in during set hours, and the intrusion system is automatically armed or disarmed. We’re seeing far fewer false alarms and calls to law enforcement and our administrators,” said Hoyle.

### Building a safer school environment using Security Center

Looking ahead, the IT team at LCS has many expansion projects underway. As upgrades continue throughout the district, they’re working closely with the Genetec team to maximize their investment and deploy new applications. This includes connecting their school and security systems to deliver faster, more coordinated communication during any situation.

“Security Center is integral to our school security strategy. It ties everything together and builds a safer environment that’s responsive to the needs of our students and community,” concluded Hoyle.

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