



The Power of Perspective

CASE STUDY

K-12 Education Solution

ORGANIZATION

Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Annapolis, MD, United States

APPLICATION

District-wide IP Video Surveillance
Using a Perspective VMS® by LENSEC



Anne Arundel County Public Schools Trusts in a Long-term Relationship with **LENSEC**, Using **Perspective VMS®** to Keep Schools Safe

ABOUT AACPS AND LENSEC

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) in Maryland is one of the 50 largest school systems in the United States with over 81,000 students in 126 schools.

Having this many students across a sizable school district creates many issues with providing a safe learning environment. A large school district like AACPS is presented with many problems since they have students at campuses spread across a wide regional area. There are many incidents that are investigated at each school. Capturing video evidence can often mean the difference in determining the true facts of each incident.

With each facility, system maintenance and training of users becomes crucial. Care for the components of the security system and the network backbone require ongoing support. Large school districts need vendors they can trust to support their systems and provide needed maintenance on security systems.

In 2007, AACPS contracted with LENSEC to provide a video surveillance system that could capably cover district properties. Since that time, AACPS has been a loyal customer. LENSEC helped bring the school district onto one security platform. At the time, the district used LENSEC's legacy video management software, LENSEC VMS. Since then, the district has upgraded LENSEC's enterprise-level security platform, Perspective VMS®. AACPS began shifting to PVMS in the 2014-2015 school year. The conversion to the new security software was completed in 2017. Perspective VMS® brings many advancements to the district that were not available in LENSEC VMS.

Supervisor of School Security, Doyle Batten, says the district is approaching 8,000 cameras in AACPS school facilities. Securing the entire district using one security platform brings significant advantages. System administrators can access cameras at any location on the network no matter where they are located. Authorized users can even access the security video remotely from their residence, as needed.

THE PREFERRED SOLUTION

The district uses an overview map of site locations. With permission, key users can drill down to different schools. Other users may be restricted to viewing cameras from their site only. This really helps make navigation within Perspective VMS® user-friendly. Map navigation is simplified when users may not know all the camera locations. Local law enforcement can gain temporary access to PVMS to improve situational awareness when responding to emergency calls at school locations. They can see a map with camera locations and even view video for the camera from the map page.

Up to 800 users have been trained on Perspective VMS®. LENSEC's support staff has been instrumental in teaching users how to use the software. Batten says, "The on-site training has been very helpful. The support staff has been amazing at training our staff and troubleshooting for specific cases."

Batten tells us Perspective VMS® is infinitely more intuitive than the previous software used. Batten says, "The archive management is much better in Perspective VMS®. This gives us the ability to step up through variable speeds when reviewing archive video. This feature is really nice." This is crucial when system users have to

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Doyle Batten

Supervisor of School Security, AACPS



search through dozens of cameras and hours of recorded video. Advanced searching features in Perspective VMS® give users more power and efficiency when they are looking for a crucial information about school incidents.

The district leans heavily on PVMS to provide video evidence of crimes committed. Batten says, "High profile crimes have only gone to trial because of the video from multiple angles that helped to secure the prosecution of suspects." In a specific incident with a student, Batten used the digital zoom to visually identify the weapon in the student's hand. He says, "When you are looking for video evidence, you can zoom in and get the image you need. I don't know if I could put a price tag on the value provided by being able to see the knife in the student's hand."

Batten even uses Perspective VMS® to train officers on school incidents. The security team trains regularly to know exactly how to respond during specific emergency events. Batten adds, "My favorite way to use PVMS is to leverage video to train school personnel for lockdowns, evacuation procedures, and forensic investigation." Having video evidence available from actual incidents provides authenticity to the training and prepares officers for many different types of circumstances they might face while on the job.

Another feature of PVMS that Batten likes is the Global Search tool. When the user is searching through multiple maps, dozens of cameras, or even trying to find a specific video event that was tagged, the Global Search tool will quickly search through the metada stored in the security system to find relevant information. This tool can quickly call up the needed data, making the job easier for the user.

THE CONCLUSION

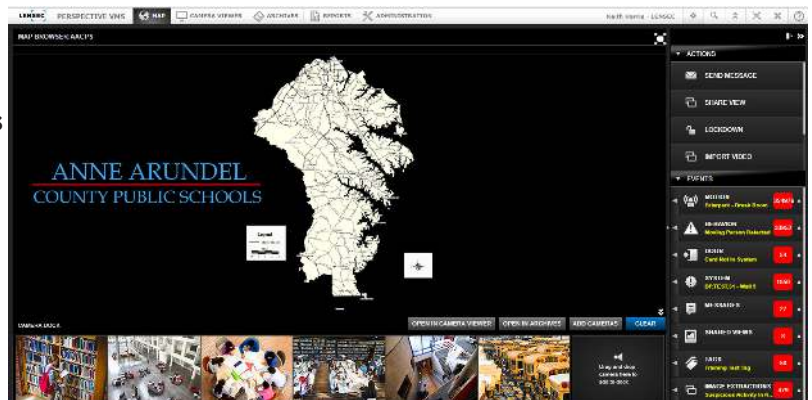
As a large customer, AACPS requires a quick response from LENSEC support staff when help is required. Batten tells us, "Our experience has been great. The support has been remarkable. LENSEC is a phone call away and always helpful in getting what I need."

With a team in place that knows the needs, LENSEC continues to grow with Anne Arundel County Public Schools. As the district plans to surpass 8,000 cameras in the near future, the school security team can continue to rely on LENSEC and Perspective VMS® for now and into the future.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

District Facts

- 46th Largest School District in the United States
- 5th Largest School district in Maryland
- 126 Schools
- 81,000 Students
- 8,000 Cameras
- 160 Security System Servers
- Using LENSEC Security Solutions Since 2007



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