



CASE STUDY:  
NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SAN ANTONIO, TX



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**SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
San Antonio, TX

**I. Client Profile**

Northside Independent School District is the premier school district in San Antonio serving 78,000 students. It is the largest district in Bexar County to earn a Recognized rating. Located in the northwest quadrant of San Antonio, Texas, Northside Independent School District, the state's 5th largest school district, is in the heart of the most rapidly growing area in Bexar County. Northside places great emphasis on a high quality work force and an employee-family culture. In addition to the 99 public schools (including four specialized magnet high schools) that Northside ISD operates, northwest Bexar County is also a higher education and research center magnet.

NISD Total Square Footage 10,353,327  
'06-'07 square footage added: 472,475  
'07-'08 square footage under construction 422,972  
Total # of Facilities 103

**Investing in Schools**

- Bond '95 \$98,000,000
- Bond '98 \$224,000,000
- Bond '01 \$495,000,000
- Bond '04 \$439,000,000
- Total investment in new facilities \$1.256 billion

**2. Industry Challenge in solving the problem**

The need for better surveillance techniques in schools has increased multifold since the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado. Safety and security are among the main concerns for school districts. Open environments, increased liability, privacy issues, limited budgets, new types of threats, both internal and external, are many of the combined factors that make it extremely challenging to secure local schools. Installing video surveillance cameras in schools is a costly project that requires a thorough inventory of the School districts needs and security concerns.

### 3. Client Challenge

NISD was faced with the challenge of providing enhanced security in the schools including reduction in theft and vandalism. It needed to implement video surveillance as part of a security enhancement program. NISD needed to effectively cover multi-building, campus environments with a single system that offered centralized viewing, playback and recording. Additionally, the system needed to provide remote access for school administrators and approved law enforcement agencies.

NISD required a security system comprised of network video surveillance, access control, alarm monitoring, and badging identification. The system had to be cost effective, intuitive and easy to use, and could scale with the demands to build new facilities. The school district also had to consider on-going management costs. Lastly, installation of the system had to be conducted in a timely manner with minimum disruptions to the normal school day activities.

### 4. LenSec's Expertise

LenSec was selected for the project due to its extensive experience in working with school districts and local government agencies. LenSec's IP-based Integrated Security Management System was technologically superior, high performing, scalable, and price competitive compared to some of its competitor's that bid for the project. Further, the integration of a video surveillance system with access control system was one of the requirements of NISD, which LenSec was able to fulfill.

### 5. LenSec's Approach

LenSec worked closely with the NISD project committee comprising Administration, Finance, Technology Services, Construction & Engineering departments, NISD's Police, and designed a solution to meet the objectives of the district. LenSec designed the fully integrated IP-based Security Management System, conducting site audits, identifying camera locations to providing and installing hardware and software.

The LenSec IP-based Integrated Security Management System was deployed initially in one of the high schools at the NISD as a pilot program which was expanded to the 10 high schools. The total cost for the 10 high schools was \$5.2 million including the video surveillance equipment, software, system design, installation and 12 months of onsite and remote maintenance. Funding for the system was provided through Bond 2005.

"We evaluated many video management solutions and determined that LenSec's solution best met or exceeded our selection criteria." – Diana Goering, Executive Director Technology, NISD, San Antonio

To meet NISD's high expectations for the system, LenSec combined its enterprise-class software with cameras from Axis Communications, and access control solutions from

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*Diana Goering,  
Executive Director  
Technology, NISD,  
San Antonio*

Open Options, including NPower DNA software. In all, LenSec's fully integrated system included 1200 Axis IP 210, 211 Auto-IRIS fixed network cameras, and 213 PTZ cameras, 1500 access control devices comprised of infrared motion detectors, glass break sensors and card readers along with Dell PE1800 servers at the district's 10 high schools. The cameras were strategically placed at public places prone to student problems such as hallways, entrances, stairwells, gym, exits, and parking lots. There were no cameras in the classrooms and rest rooms.

The LenSec IP-based Integrated Security Management System allows school officials to view live video from cameras at different schools simultaneously with high quality images. If a critical event occurs authorized school administrators and school police can access live video remotely. Recorded video can be used in conjunction with an alarm system to prevent vandalism and theft. Images recorded during an alarm event can be sent via email to specified users. The system is tied with local police and first time responders so emergency personnel can view conditions inside the school prior to arriving at an incident site. NISD has been wired with fiber optic network cables over 18 buildings and multiple sites. NISD currently archives video for 14 days unless it pertains to an incident and needs to be stored longer.

Northside Independent School District (District-Wide IP Integrated Security Management System, or ISMS)

Phase I - 10 NISD High Schools

Total Cost: \$5.2 million

#### Video Surveillance

- LenSec Software
- IP Cameras – 1200 – Axis 210, Axis 211 and Axis 213
- Enterprise Class Servers – 18 – Dell PE1800

#### Access Control

- Open Options Software
- Card Readers – 91 – Indala Curve FlexPass
- Door Contacts – 1200 approx. – General Electric – 2505A, 1078C, 1045TBR

## **6 Outcome**

The LenSec solution has brought about greater sense of security among students and their parents. There has been a significant decrease in the number of reported theft, trespassing, fights and vandalism as a result of LenSec's IP-based Integrated Security Management System.

Moreover, a decrease in the operational cost and an increase in the operational efficiencies have been realized. An additional benefit of LenSec's system is that it requires a minimal amount of training and is easy to use. The school district views its system as a tool that helps safeguard the taxpayer's investment in school property. Due to the high satisfaction level of LenSec's IP-based Integrated Security Management

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System at the 10 High schools the school authorities have agreed to deploy it in the 17 Middle Schools by May 2008 and in the 60 elementary schools by 2010 if the bond goes through.

“The biggest value is in the simplicity and scalability of the solution. Adding new cameras and locations is fast and easy.” - Diana Goering, Executive Director of Technology, NISD, San Antonio.

“Northside ISD has had great success with this system,” says Superintendent Dr. John Folks. “There was overwhelming support by the community in funding the project through a recent bond issue.”

“Deployment of LenSec’s open, scalable network IP based video surveillance solution has significantly helped NISD protect student and faculty as well as prevent vandalism and theft. We now have a powerful and scalable video solution which works effectively in our networked IT environment.” - Diana Goering, Executive Director of Technology, NISD, San Antonio.

## **7 Frost & Sullivan Analysis of the Project**

IP network video surveillance presents an enormous market opportunity due to its performance and cost advantages. It is the technology of the future in the local Government and school districts. IP network based video surveillance is anticipated to penetrate the low and mid range of the security monitoring and video surveillance market with growing end user awareness and lowering of costs. LenSec’s IP-based Integrated Security Management System is a high performance, low cost, scalable solution which few in the industry can match.

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*Diana Goering, Executive Director of Technology, NISD, San Antonio*

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