

Expanding Digital Safety Platform Features to Maximize Protection at School City of Hobart E911 & SAFE2SPEAKUP

The Challenge

School City of Hobart in Indiana has been continuously improving its school safety approach. The traditional methods such as flip charts and a PA system were not efficient. In 2018, they adopted CrisisGo to modernize their safety process with a digital platform. With CrisisGo, they have been able to improve their communication capabilities and have a single location to provide their staff with digital access to their safety protocols and information such as checklists and maps. The digital check-in process and rostering process lets them instantly know the status of each member of their school community. Jon Mock, Director of HR & Compliance at School City of Hobart, informed us that while this process was working, they still wanted a better way to contact 911 if necessary. They were also looking for a system that would directly involve the students in the safety plan.



Customer Profile

School City of Hobart serves the educational needs of over 4,000 students in grades Pre K-12. The district promotes a positive, safe learning environment in which all students are able to become responsible, productive citizens in an everchanging world. With a focus on science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines, all six schools in the district are STEM-certified.

Industry: Pre K-12 Education Region: Hobart, IN Total Schools: 6 Total Students: 4,000 SIS (Roster): Skyward Customer Since: 2018



The Solution

Already familiar with CrisisGo, School City of Hobart was eager to add new features to their safety plan in order to maximize protection at their schools. One feature added was Enhanced 911 (E911), which puts emergency alerts directly on 911 call takers' existing software. CrisisGo has patented this unique automated escalation software tool to bring first responders directly into the school communications group for collaboration with the school safety team.

Mock says that being able to pre-program critical information such as room numbers and GPS locations saves everyone valuable time throughout an emergency. Mock stated, "While we're fortunate that we have a school resource officer in every single one of our schools who have instant communication with dispatch, E911 has been a backup for us if we ever don't have that connection." With E911, School City of Hobart can be sure that dispatchers will get direct information on the type of emergency, the location, and who is calling. Another added feature is the Safe2SpeakUP app which gives students the ability to communicate with the administration, their SROs, and their school safety teams instantly and to have that two-way dialog. According to Mock, students are more willing to share with Safe2SpeakUP and they can see who is responding to them. It's nice for staff, administrators, and SROs to be able to have that communication with students as well. They can inquire about incidents so that they can better respond to different situations. All of the students have been trained on how to log in and how to submit information.

This year, School City of Hobart has implemented the Standard Response Protocol of The "I Love U Guys" Foundation, a dedicated partner of CrisisGo. The common language within CrisisGo has been useful in conjunction with knowing the specific actions to take in a particular situation.





The Results

Using the new features of the CrisisGo digital safety platform has helped School City of Hobart to maximize its safety efforts. Mock states, "In an emergency, teachers know that communication is instant versus having to rely on radio communication, for example, when they may not have radios and would have to try to find someone with a radio."

The Safe2SpeakUP app, which is loaded onto the school-issued student Chromebooks and has an anonymous feature, has been more appealing to students than having to go down to the office and be visible and speak with someone. Specifically at Hobart's middle school, students have really taken the tool and used it appropriately and effectively. Mock said, "By using The 'I Love U Guys' Foundation's protocols, it's nice for our staff to know what to expect when they see the logo, colors, language of the protocols, whether it's on a poster in a classroom or in the hallway. There is that comfort level and familiarity with the plans. When they're actually dealing with a drill or handling an emergency inside of CrisisGo, they're always using that same language, same logos, and same identifiers."

Mock stated: "It's all going really well, and we're excited to see these kinds of continuing features." They are looking into possibly adopting CrisisGo's threat assessment tool, Safety Intervention Manager, as well as upgrading to the newest version of CrisisGo's digital safety platform, Safety iResponse, in the future.

Having that direct, two-way communication with our staff in the event of an emergency or drill is a huge component of the safety process for us. Rather than relying on text messaging, email, and the PA system, we know that communication is streamlined and all in one place with CrisisGo.

Jon Mock

Director of HR & Compliance School City of Hobart