

INTEGRATING DISPARATE TECHNOLOGIES FOR

# FOR BETTER, FASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

*Kingsway Regional & South Harrison Township  
Elementary School Districts*





## KEY CHALLENGES

Like many school districts, Kingsway Regional and South Harrison Township relied on a slew of disconnected systems for their security monitoring and emergency response. While typical, those solutions didn't work so well in real-life scenarios.

"Let's say, God forbid, there was a shooter in the building, or something was going down," Iocona shared. "The previous solution would've been to issue a radio announcement to someone, and for that someone to grab their phone, dial up and do an announcement over the PA speaker. At that point, we'd hope that everyone was able to hear the alarm and do the right thing."

That process presented significant challenges, Iocona explained: "One problem with that process is that it would take us minutes to take those steps. Two, there's all kinds of user errors we've seen in previous incidents, where people froze, maybe didn't make an announcement or knew where to go. Plus, you wouldn't know where the alert was coming from, and all kinds of chatter would go across the radio. It was hard to communicate."

The school districts also needed a better process for lockdowns. "We didn't really have a lockdown system before," said Iocona. "We had, basically, a hidden emergency button under the secretary's desk that they would press, and it would trigger a silent alarm."

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

In researching security solutions, Iocona found many options in the market, except they didn't solve the issue of having to manage disconnected, disparate systems.

Beyond the integration aspect, Iocona also wanted a solution he could manage himself. "I wasn't going to trust a third party to take it and run with it, where I'd have to call and wait on them to figure things out. That's what we had before," he explained. Rather, Iocona wanted an easy-to-use interface he could control and customize to the needs and preferences of his schools.

# BETTER, FASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

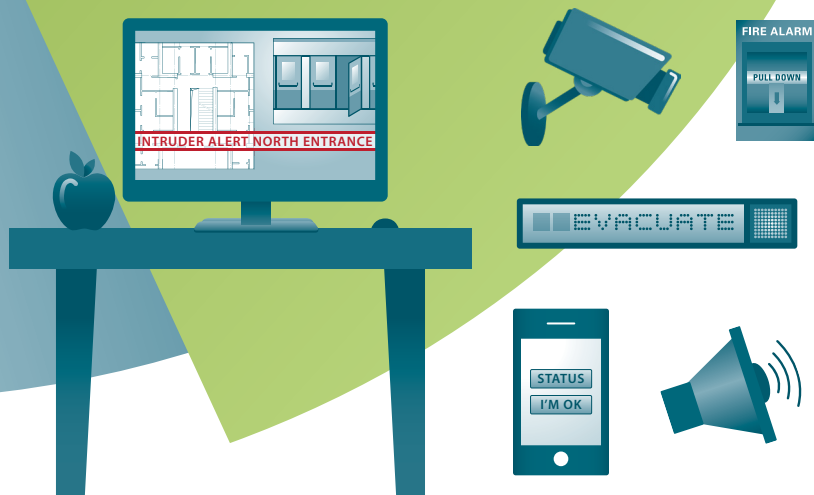
## KINGSWAY REGIONAL & SOUTH HARRISON TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

*"We were looking for something all-encompassing. Something that could be integrated with third-party cameras, alarm systems, signage, and more. Integration was very important to us, and Layered Solutions was the only vendor we found able to do that."*

- ROBERT IOCONA, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER,  
KINGSWAY REGIONAL & SOUTH HARRISON TOWNSHIP

What happens when you have only moments to react and disseminate critical instructions to protect people and property under your care? And how do you reach multiple audiences instantly, bypassing distractions or communications barriers, with minimal delay or chance of human error?

Robert Iocona, Chief Technology Officer for Kingsway Regional and South Harrison Township Elementary School Districts (Woolwich Township, New Jersey), shares key considerations and solutions he's adopted for faster emergency response and resolution.



# COMPONENTS

Layered Solutions components in use at Kingsway Regional and South Harrison Township Elementary schools include the following:

- Visual Campus
- Mobile App
- PC Alert
- Fire Alarm Integration
- LED Signage Module
- Camera Integration
- PA Integration

## COMPONENT FEATURES

### VISUAL CAMPUS

School officials can view potential threats and suspicious activities across their entire campus on a single dashboard. To make that possible, Visual Campus pulls data from multiple security and communications systems into a central hub. "Say a kid pushes a blue lockdown button. Within a minute, our officials can bring up Visual Campus on their phone, see where the button was pushed, and respond accordingly," said locona.

### MOBILE APP

"What's nice about this system is I can use it how I want to use it," said locona. To that end, he's granted access to principals, vice principals, security officials and police to initiate a lockdown, precautionary lockdown, or shelter-in-place scenarios. "They can also issue an 'all-clear' and reset alarms," he added.

### PC ALERT

"Every teacher station has PC alert installed, and those screens are mirrored on the projectors in the classroom. Any time an alert is issued, it pops up on their screen," he explained. While the same message is voiced over the PA system, the visual alert adds another communications layer in case the classroom is too loud, or a student isn't able to hear.

### PA INTEGRATION

The Layered Solutions module pushes sound to LED signs, which have speakers and LED marquee displays, and to the existing analog PA systems, simultaneously. This capability enables the schools to manage the web-based bell scheduler on-site or remotely, facilitates district-wide paging, and increases the functionality of existing systems.

### FIRE ALARM INTEGRATION

"Fire alarms are highly restrictive to IT professionals. You're not allowed to modify anything," said locona. "What's cool about the Layered Solutions system is they don't modify anything; they're just taking a feed out of the fire alarm as a printer feed, then converting it into an alert feed."

### LED SIGNAGE MODULE

"We have those in our hallways, and they do our internal strobes. LED signs act not only as clocks, but in the event of a lockdown, a message will display on that sign. It will also flash red, white or blue, depending on the type of alert," locona explained.


### CAMERA INTEGRATION

"We have a third-party camera system we like. By integrating with that system, we can overlay the cameras in the Visual Campus map. Any first responders, principals, vice principals and superintendents can bring up those cameras and see a live feed," shared locona. The integration also makes it possible to sync up and deploy messaging to multiple schools at once.

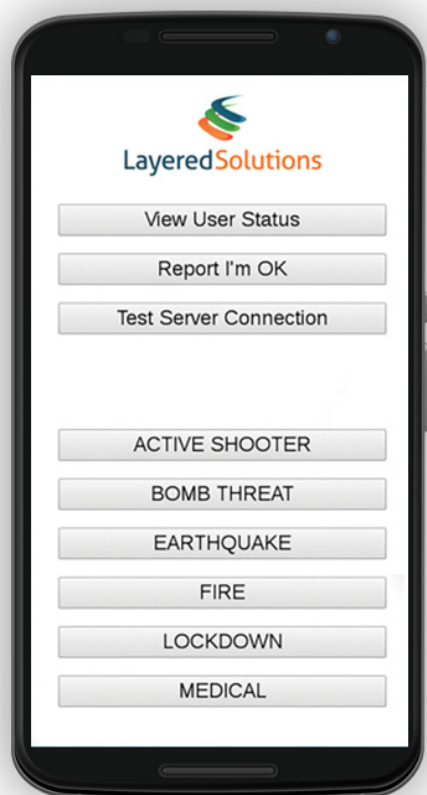
## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

*The benefits of integrated technology are endless. Keep reading to find out the impact Layered Solutions had on Kingsway Regional School District.*





“I’ve received a lot of feedback from other school districts looking to implement what we’re doing,” locona concluded. “That’s a good thing.”



## BEFORE & AFTER

Contrasting Layered Solutions with other systems he’s encountered through his research, locona underscores integration as the chief differentiator. “Other solutions were fragmented; you had some systems here, some there, and they didn’t integrate in one go-to [dashboard],” he explained.

“With Layered Solutions, this is one system, with one central control location. I can go to one map, see where the lockdown buttons are, cameras, fire alarms, and I can also initiate the lockdown from that map.”

The new system also eliminates many manual steps that would’ve delayed or botched emergency responses in the past. “The only thing the user needs to do now is press a button,” said locona. “Once that button is pressed, the automations take over, shaving minutes off past procedures.”

While Layered Solutions’ implementation is still fairly young across Kingsway and South Harrison Township Elementary, “I’ve received a lot of feedback from other school districts looking to implement what we’re doing,” locona concluded. “That’s a good thing.”

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

**Call us at: 317-564-3208**

**Email us at: [info@layeredsolutionsinc.com](mailto:info@layeredsolutionsinc.com)**

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Contact: [info@comtecsystems.net](mailto:info@comtecsystems.net)



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