HID®

American School of Guatemala Upgrades Its Physical Access Control System to Power Advanced Security for Students

"We've significantly improved the management of vehicle traffic by reducing the time it takes parents to access the parking lot. We've been able to improve evacuation and emergency processes for our students and staff. And, best of all, we have an automated system to manage the entry and exit times of our employees to know where everyone is located on our large campus."

Security Office,
American School of Guatemala

Solutions:

- HID® iCLASS SE® R10 readers
- HID® iCLASS SE® R90 readers
- Seos® smart card
- HID Mobile Access®

The American School of Guatemala (CAG) is a bilingual, non-profit college preparatory institution in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The campus spans eight acres and includes 27 classroom buildings that house 1,500 students and 550 staff members. Founded in 1945, CAG is recognized in Central America as a pioneer in education and technology applications.

Challenges

The security management team at the American School of Guatemala faced two challenges:

An outdated physical access control system. CAG needed to renew its access control system to monitor the entry and exit of students, staff and visitors on campus. Its legacy system involved handwritten documentation and a fingerprint log recorded on reams of paper, which provided limited protection and was difficult to scale as enrollment increased.

Inefficient loading and unloading. The duration of a typical student drop-off took an average of 40 minutes in total.

In order to modernize its processes, improve efficiency and provide a safer, more secure environment for students, parents and staff in a city with significant crime, the school sought to update its antiquated tracking protocols.

Solutions

The CAG security management team collaborated with SensorlogiQ, a local security system integrator and trusted partner of HID, to install an access management solution using HID's Seos credential technology.
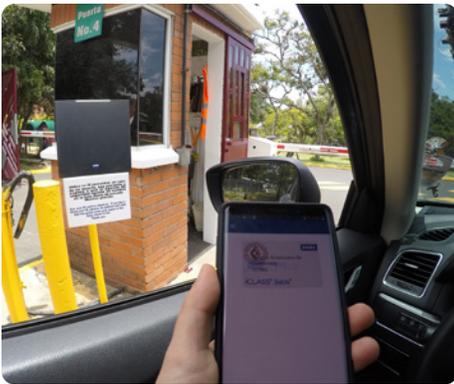
"HID Global technology is proven and the company offers excellent technical support that is also needed to manage the new access control and security system," said Jorge Raul Quintana, Design and Development Engineer at SensorlogiQ. "Basically, HID Global is failure proof."

The solution consisted of the deployment of 23 HID iCLASS SE readers for pedestrian and vehicle access and 1,500 Seos smart cards for students, parents and staff.

CAG also launched an HID Mobile Access pilot to allow parents and staff to access the school's parking lot via mobile ID stored on their smartphones. When a vehicle arrives at the parking lot, the driver can open the gate by simply holding up his or her mobile phone to the reader — an important feature since most students arrive in bulletproof armored vehicles that lack the ability to lower windows.

Results

Increased security and efficiency are the main benefits for CAG's new physical access control system. School administrators are able to verify identities in real time, as well as easily issue and manage access credentials. The school has also decreased the time parents and caregivers spend dropping off their children from 40 to 18 minutes. Environmental benefits include reduction of paper waste from its previous system.

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CAG is well-equipped to expand its access control system as enrollment increases and has already reaped benefits from the new system. Since implementing the HID solution, the school has increased enrollment from 1,400 to 1,570 students with no access management issues.

Moving forward, school officials anticipate leveraging HID's technology for additional use cases within the school to create a more streamlined and transformative educational experience for students.

"In our strategic growth plan for continuing to automate and manage our school, the goal is to use HID's Seos smart cards as ID badges for students to reserve books in the library or pay for services," said the Security Office of the American School of Guatemala. "There is also a proposal to change the entire traditional key system to a cost-efficient solution with access cards for students to open approximately 350 doors a day."

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