



SHAPING TOMORROW'S GENERATION WITH SAFER, MORE CONNECTED SCHOOLS

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS 2021 EDUCATION SURVEY REPORT





ADDRESSING EVOLVING SCHOOL SAFETY CHALLENGES WITH TECHNOLOGY

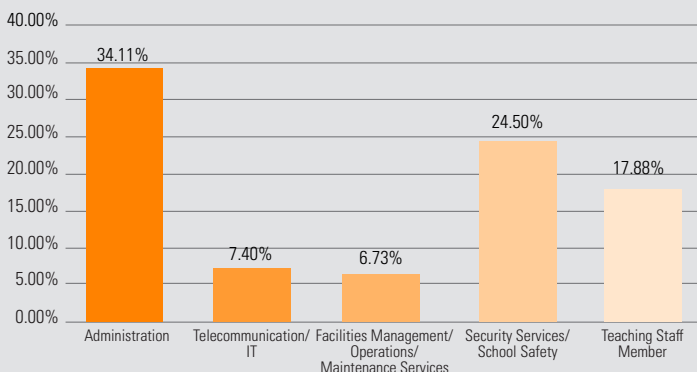
Keeping our schools safe and our students focused on learning have become top priorities for teachers, parents, and communities nationwide. That's because threats to school safety and security continue to rise. Today's staff and teachers are not only responding to everyday incidents, such as hallway altercations or minor health emergencies, but also critical emergencies, and most recently, a global pandemic.

Communications and safety technology is evolving to help schools meet these security challenges and ensure that students feel secure, supported, and ready to learn at all times. To gauge how and why schools are taking advantage of this technology, Motorola Solutions conducted the 2021 K-12 Education Industry Survey.

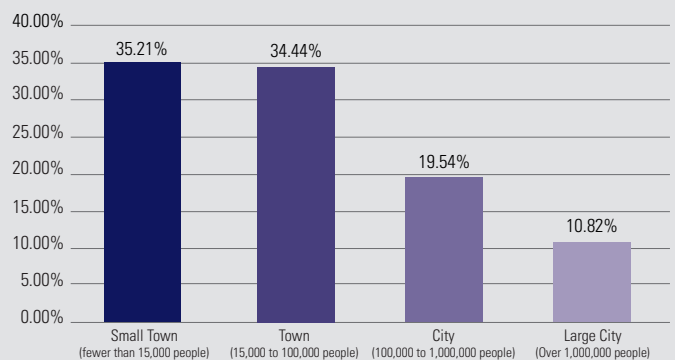
The survey includes the voices of more than 900 respondents, representing school districts across the United States. Their diverse roles range from administrators and educators to IT staff and security personnel, among others. Respondents represent school districts of all sizes, including smaller districts with less than 1,000 students to large school districts containing a student body of more than 25,000 students.

900+ RESPONDENTS FROM SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

RESPONDENT JOB FUNCTION



RESPONDENT LOCATION










TODAY'S PRIORITIES. TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

SAFETY AND SECURITY TOPS EDUCATOR'S LIST OF PRIORITIES

As students and staff return to in-person learning, the number one priority cited by respondents is protecting staff, students, and visitors with safety features as part of their school communications technology. The second most cited priority is the ability to receive automatic alerts when a potential safety, security, or emergency incident arises.

TOP 5 COMMUNICATIONS AND SAFETY PRIORITIES FOR EDUCATORS

1.  Protecting staff, students, and visitors with safety features
2.  Automatic alerts when a potential safety, security or emergency incident arises
3.  Giving students online access classroom lessons and materials from home
4.  Instant voice communication between staff members
5.  The ability to access video, apps and other forms of data



**#1 PRIORITY FOR
SCHOOLS IS**

PROTECTING STAFF, STUDENTS, AND VISITORS WITH SAFETY FEATURES



VIDEO SECURITY TOPS THE LIST

Following established trends noted in our 2019 survey, two-way radios and intercom/PA systems remain high on the list of communications technologies used by schools. Indeed, with its combination of reliability, rugged construction, and Push-to-Talk functionality, radio communication remains a critical foundation for communicating across school campuses. Today, more schools are upgrading to digital two-way radios, capable of running modern apps and unifying communications among teams and networks and even directly with public safety.

However, in 2021, respondents report that the most used technology in their schools is video security equipment, in use by nearly 9 in 10 schools, up from 8 in 10 in 2019. Video security solutions are also being used beyond school campuses. Nearly 60% of school bus systems now have video surveillance systems.

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS' SAFE SCHOOLS ECOSYSTEM

Combining voice, video, software, and services, our Safe School ecosystem equips schools to respond to everyday emergencies, while also recognizing patterns, anticipating actions, and helping to prevent situations before they develop into critical emergencies. We help schools create next-generation school safety with modular blocks of technologies that help schools detect, analyze, communicate and respond to any threat.

[Learn more](#) about safe our Safe Schools ecosystem.

TOP COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES UTILIZED IN SCHOOLS



90%

Video Security Equipment



86%

Intercom/PA System



83%

Two-Way Radio Communications



71%

Visitor Management



70%

Entry Control Equipment (Access Control)



68%

Distance Learning Devices and Technologies



54%

Emergency Alerts (Automated Text Messaging, Emails, Etc.)

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS

When it comes to improving school safety, nearly 40% of respondents say their security systems either “need improvement” or are only “adequately” meeting their needs. Recent technological innovations now allow schools to get more out of their existing technology investments-- By integrating the technologies they are already using every day in one ecosystem, schools can reduce response times, improve situational awareness and maximize their often constrained resources. For example, security staff can receive an automatic text notification directly on their radio when their access control system detects a secure door is ajar or forced open or when a video analytic identifies a potential risk. By connecting the technologies that keep schools secure, security staff are always proactively aware of unfolding incidents and can more effectively prevent them from becoming an incident.



REMOTE LEARNING GOES MAINSTREAM

MAJORITY OF SCHOOLS NOW HAVE REMOTE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY IN PLACE

The ongoing pandemic and the accompanying scramble for at-home instruction, has greatly accelerated adoption of remote learning technology, demonstrating the opportunities and challenges it presents for families and educators. While schools continue to assess how to best integrate and optimize the technology, most agree that remote learning capabilities are here to stay.

According to respondents, 83% percent of schools will continue using distance learning technology for purposes outside of COVID-19. In fact, “giving students online access to classroom lessons and materials from home” was ranked in the top three overall communications priorities for schools. The main reasons cited include:

1. Reducing the spread of potential viruses
2. Supporting students who are too ill to attend in person
3. Inclement weather

ACCESS REMAINS A CHALLENGE

Communities across the country face a large digital divide, with a significant portion of the population lacking reliable and secure online access. This divide is particularly problematic when it comes to education. Students with less access to educational resources and learning opportunities, whether in-person or online, are at a disadvantage. Now, as online systems provide continued access to learning during health, weather, or other emergencies, even apart from the pandemic, online access is becoming a basic education necessity. It must be available to every student.

However, 64% of survey respondents report that students have difficulty accessing online resources at home. In some cases, this is due to a family’s inability to afford Internet access. Yet, often the reason has more to do with a lack of infrastructure in an entire community or geographic area that prevents citizens from obtaining reliable, fast, and secure Internet access. Some schools are choosing to implement private networks that take advantage of the federal government-supported Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS). These private networks can greatly reduce physical and financial barriers to access.

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS NITRO PRIVATE LTE NETWORK FOR SCHOOLS

For schools looking to bridge the digital divide and ensure all students have access to online educational resources, Motorola offers Nitro™, the first fully-managed CBRS platform that combines private LTE data with business-critical voice in an enterprise-grade private network. With twice the capacity and up to four times the range of Wi-Fi, Nitro Private LTE lets you do more with much less to manage.

[Learn more about Nitro today.](#)



64%

OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS REPORT THAT STUDENTS HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING ONLINE RESOURCES AT HOME.

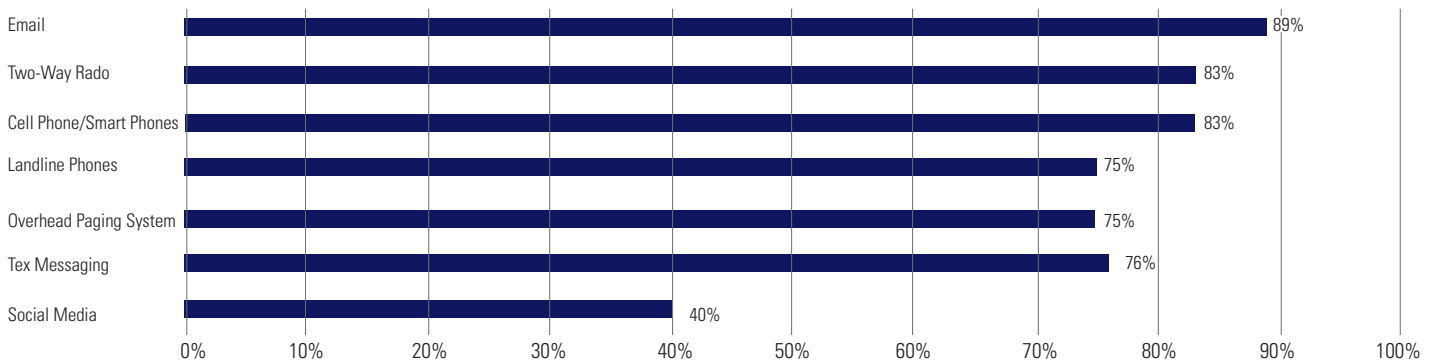


PROLIFERATION OF DEVICES CREATE NEW CHALLENGES

EDUCATION STAFF USE MULTIPLE FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

Today, people are using more devices and communication channels than ever before and the education industry is no different. Survey respondents cited email, two-way radios, and cell phones as the most commonly-used methods to communicate with others in their school district. However, text messaging, landline phones, and overhead paging systems are also in frequent use. With the exception of social media, every device and channel listed in our survey is used by more than 75% of respondents.

THE MANY FORMS OF SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



COMMUNICATING ACROSS DEVICES REMAINS A CHALLENGE

Having access to multiple forms of communication offers clear benefits, but also many challenges. A majority of schools report being unable to support communication across different devices, yet virtually all respondents (98%) say they would find it of value to connect all communication devices and more than 90% find that connecting devices improves instant communications during emergencies.

As schools increasingly place top emphasis on safety and security, the demand for interoperability solutions is likely to increase. That's because ultra-fast and reliable communication, regardless of device or network, often makes the difference between defusing an incident and it spiraling into a larger emergency.



98%

OF EDUCATION WORKERS FIND IT OF VALUE TO CONNECT ALL TYPES OF COMMUNICATION DEVICES ACROSS DIFFERENT NETWORKS.



TODAY'S DIGITAL TWO-WAY RADIOS: MORE CAPABILITIES. MORE SAFETY.

SCHOOLS REQUIRE MORE RADIOS

Today, two-way radios are used by 83% of schools and are likely to remain a primary mode of communication well into the future. The majority (63%) of schools that utilize two-way radios own anywhere from 1 to 50 devices. Yet, nearly half believe that number should be increased to meet their needs.

DIGITAL RADIOS ENHANCE SAFETY CAPABILITIES

Almost half of respondents said their schools are incorporating digital radios into their communications system. This isn't a surprise as digital radios offer crystal clear audio and many other enhanced features critical for safety.







For example, when asked what capabilities educators wanted in their radios beyond voice communications, 71% of respondents say they would like to integrate text messaging into school communications, while 63% percent cite the ability to communicate directly with first responders. Digital radio supports both of these capabilities, as well as location tracking and analytics alerting that can help improve emergency detection and response.

MOTOTRBO ION: GO ALL ON

The MOTOTRBO Ion smart radio is the first business-ready rugged communication device with all-on voice and LTE broadband data capabilities. Stay connected across networks and devices. Unify critical data and workflows. Ensure the capabilities your staff needs to be at their best are always on.

[Learn more](#) about MOTOTRBO Ion today.

TOP 6 DESIRED CAPABILITIES BEYOND VOICE COMMUNICATIONS

- 
1 Text messaging and alerting
- 
2 Ability to communicate directly with first responders
- 
3 Interrupt conversations to prioritize critical messages
- 
4 Share images, multimedia messaging
- 
5 Video calling
- 
6 GPS location tracking Technologies



INSUFFICIENT FUNDS STILL THE LARGEST BARRIER TO IMPROVING SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The largest factor preventing schools from improving communications continues to be insufficient funds, with 57% of respondents reporting that they do not receive enough funding to cover the necessary safety and communications technology.

More than 50% of schools rely on state or federal grants to cover these costs. School administrators, parents, teachers, and communities need to continually reinforce the link between communications technology and safety when advocating for additional government funding. Schools should also explore additional sources of funding – whether through non-profit or private sector grants – to help close the gap. Federal COVID-19 relief funding continues to help many schools upgrade distance learning capabilities and implement other safety measures that will benefit students long after the pandemic has ended.

TOP 3 BARRIERS TO IMPROVING SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS AND SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES



Insufficient funding



Budget applied to other technologies



Lack of familiarity with new technologies

GET HELP WITH GRANT FUNDING

Motorola provides customized support to help customers secure funding for critical communications projects, including grant research, grant alert notices, and grant application reviews by our expert team. Whether you're just starting a communications project or need to add the final touches to an application, we've partnered with grants experts at **EducationGrantsHelp** so you can get the grants support you need.



SAFE SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY: EMPOWERED SCHOOLS AND THRIVING STUDENTS

Modern schools use technology in almost every facet of education. But when it comes to communications and security, too often they must make do with aging or inefficient equipment. Educators, administrators, and school staff want their technology to do more. Within schools large and small, public and private, and across the country, faculty need their communications technology to keep them connected across devices and networks. Schools need solutions that make it easy for their students to access remote learning, even after the pandemic subsides. They want crystal clear sound, the ability to hear in noisy spaces and the convenience and power of apps and texting.

Above all, they want capabilities that will keep their students and themselves safe both from everyday incidents and large-scale threats.

Today's Safe Schools technology can help you get there, empowering schools to thrive with an integrated, flexible, always-connected infrastructure that can accommodate evolving communications and safety needs. Our nation's educators, students, and staff deserve nothing less.

To learn more and explore how we're bringing education communications into the future, visit:
www.motorolasolutions.com/education.



Motorola Solutions, Inc. 500 West Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60661 U.S.A. motorolasolutions.com

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