SCHOOL SAFETY
THE CHALLENGES AND NEEDS OF MODERN DAY CLASSROOMS

Motorola Solutions 2023 Education Survey Report

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS

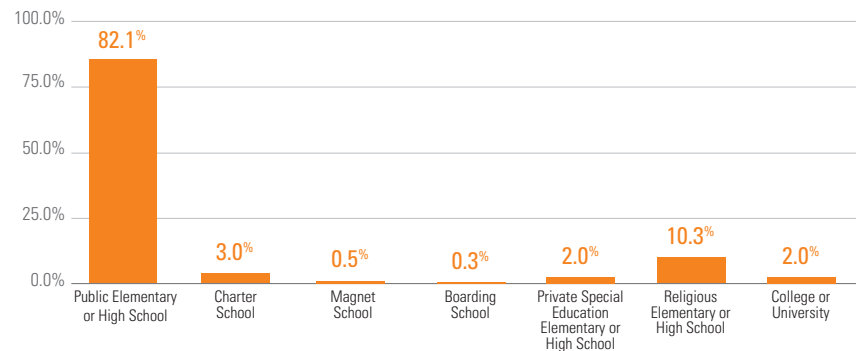# USING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY TO KEEP STUDENTS SAFE

Teachers and staff at schools have one clear priority above everything else: ensuring the safety of their students. It is a responsibility that stretches to every school across the region, from smaller sites with 250 students to large districts with over 25,000. And what they are all facing are rising threats to school safety and security.

Whether it's a hallway altercation or a critical emergency, school staff need to be as well equipped as possible to meet these security challenges and keep their students safe and protected. Communications and safety technology is constantly evolving to help schools achieve this, so in order to gauge how and why schools are taking advantage of this technology, Motorola Solutions conducted the 2023 Education Survey.
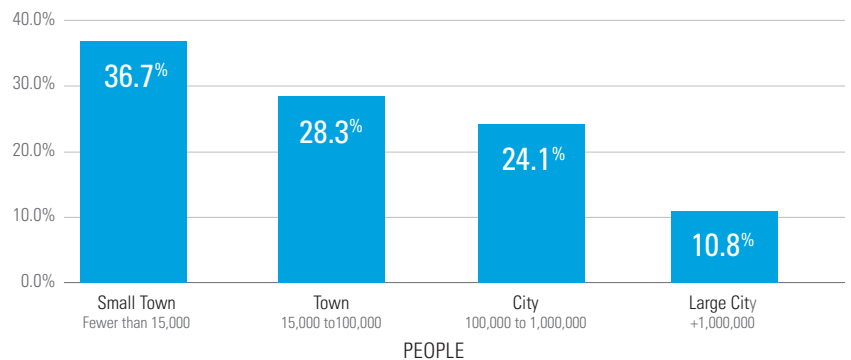
With over 400 respondents from school districts across the United States and Canada, the survey gained insight from staff in a diverse range of roles, from administrators and educators to IT staff and security personnel. Respondents came from different sized schools from a variety of areas, such as small towns of a few thousand people to large cities with populations of over a million.

400+
RESPONDENTS FROM SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Respondent School Type

School Type	Percentage
Public Elementary or High School	82.1%
Charter School	3.0%
Magnet School	0.5%
Boarding School	0.3%
Private Special Education Elementary or High School	2.0%
Religious Elementary or High School	10.3%
College or University	2.0%

Respondent Location

Location	Percentage
Small Town (Fewer than 15,000)	36.7%
Town (15,000 to 100,000)	28.3%
City (100,000 to 1,000,000)	24.1%
Large City (+1,000,000)	10.8%

PEOPLE

SAFETY FIRST

Educators Put The Protection of Staff and Students Above All Else

Our respondents said that protecting staff, students, and visitors with safety features as part of their school communications technology is their number one priority. They also cited the importance of automatic alerts when a potential safety, security, or emergency incident arises. Other top priorities include connecting staff across a range of devices and the ability to communicate discreetly.

#1 PRIORITY FOR SCHOOLS

PROTECTING STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS WITH SAFETY FEATURES

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. The ability to access video, apps and other forms of data

4. Connecting workers on any device and network

5. Discreet communication options

VIDEO SECURITY REMAINS ON TOP

In our 2021 survey, we found more and more education organizations were using video security to keep their schools safe. That trend continues in our 2023 survey, with roughly 93% of respondents stating they currently use this technology, up from around 90% two years ago.

As also seen in previous surveys, two-way radios remain high on the list of communications technologies used by schools. With its combination of reliability, rugged construction, and Push-to-Talk (PTT) functionality, radio communication remains a critical foundation for communicating across school campuses. Our survey reveals that 86% of schools are using two-way radios, while 90% are using intercom or PA systems.
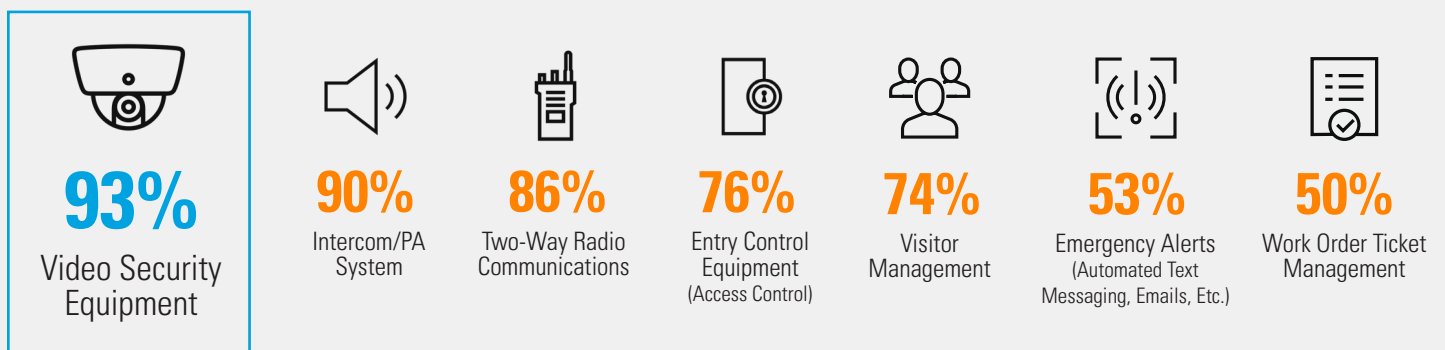
This highlights the importance of effective communication technology when it comes to keeping students safe. Being able to quickly and clearly share and receive information across campus when incidents occur is vital.

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS' SAFE SCHOOLS ECOSYSTEM

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

LEARN MORE

TOP COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES UTILIZED IN SCHOOLS

| 93% Video Security Equipment | 90% Intercom/PA System | 86% Two-Way Radio Communications | 76% Entry Control Equipment (Access Control) | 74% Visitor Management | 53% Emergency Alerts (Automated Text Messaging, Emails, Etc.) | 50% Work Order Ticket Management |

THE CHALLENGE OF
CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Improvements are Needed in Sound Quality and Integration of Communications Systems

Respondents to our survey made it clear that they need to see improvements in several areas when it comes to the communications systems in place at their school. Chief among them was the ability to hear clearly anywhere, even in noisy environments.

60%

OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAID THEIR SYSTEMS "NEED IMPROVEMENT" IN THIS AREA WHILE AROUND **30%** INDICATED THEIR SYSTEMS ARE ONLY "ADEQUATELY" MEETING THIS NEED.

Schools, particularly larger ones with tens of thousands of students, can become very noisy in hallways and other high-traffic areas, but staff still need to be able to communicate with each other clearly. This is especially true if there is a safety incident occurring.

This makes reliable, robust communication technology a crucial resource for school staff. But, with so many safety system possibilities, this technology also needs to be versatile and adaptable. Just over half of respondents to our survey said that the integration of communications systems with safety systems in their organization "needs improvement." Further to this, a similar number highlighted the need to improve consistent communication coverage across an entire school campus or district.

Education Staff Require Connection Across A Range Of Devices

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

Having access to such a wide range of communication devices undoubtedly has its benefits, but it also comes with significant challenges. The use of all these devices comes with the potential for staff to be more connected than ever - something our respondents are keenly aware of. Almost all of them - a staggering 98% - said that it would be valuable for communication devices to be able to connect to each other. The reality is that very few organizations are currently able to do this. Just 5% of those surveyed have the capability to connect a range of devices.

98%

of education workers said they would find value in being able to cross communicate between various devices.

TOP FORMS OF COMMUNICATION UTILIZED IN SCHOOLS

90%
Cellphones/ Smartphones

87%
Email

84%
Two-Way Radios/ Walkie Talkies

79%
Landline Phones

78%
Text Messaging

70%
Overhead Paging System

42%
Social Media

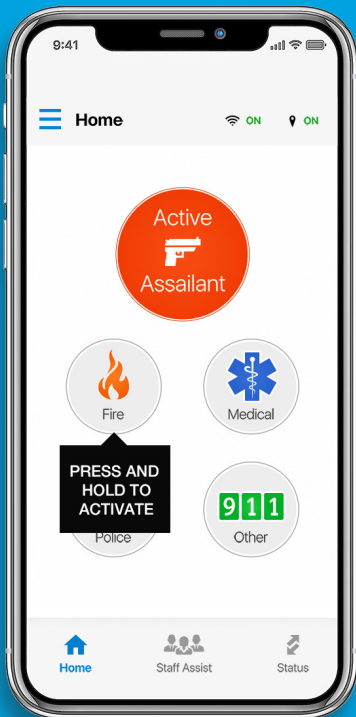# DEVICES THAT LET YOU HEAR, BE HEARD & COMMUNICATE INSTANTLY

MOTOTRBO R7

MOTOTRBO R7 lets your team hear and be heard the first time — when it matters most. Adaptive Dual Microphone Noise Suppression brings game-changing noise canceling to your team, so you can hear them over the noise of busy hallways and large crowds. Automatic Acoustic Feedback Suppression intelligently cancels out the feedback of other close-by radios, for a seamless voice experience in tightly packed areas. Intelligent Audio monitors background noise and adjusts speaker volume so users don't have to, ensuring calls are always at the perfect volume.

R7 is also designed for seamless collaboration. It connects with video security systems, sensors and more, allowing you to streamline communication and keep your staff in touch across a range of devices and systems.

LEARN MORE

Rave Panic Button

When a safety incident arises, rapid and automatic alerts can make all the difference. The Rave Panic Button allows you to quickly and reliably notify 9-1-1 and key stakeholders of an emergency to better inform your first responders and key personnel throughout the duration of the event. Rave Panic Button facilitates fast and accurate data-sharing with emergency services and responders, such as locating the greatest area of need by checking on the status of individuals through push notifications. This two-way communication ensures that incidents are addressed as effectively as possible.

At the push of a button, everyone who needs to know what's going on - from on-site personnel to first responders - are updated automatically.

LEARN MORE

INSUFFICIENT FUNDS STILL THE LARGEST BARRIER TO IMPROVING SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS IN SCHOOLS

The largest factor preventing schools from improving communications continues to be insufficient funds.

62% OF RESPONDENTS

reporting that they do not receive enough funding to cover the necessary safety and communications technology.

JUST 9%

ACCORDING TO OUR RESPONDENTS

can cover 100% of their communication technology needs, leaving many without the resources to keep their staff and students as safe as possible.

Most of the funding for communications solutions at schools and school districts comes from taxes and school district funds, with just under half of all respondents highlighting this as the primary source of funding. State and local grants, tuition fees and federal government grants make up the other key sources of funding for schools.

Get Help With Grant Funding

Motorola provides customized support to help schools secure funding for critical communications projects, including grant research, grant alert notices, and grant application reviews by an 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.com** so you can get the grants support you need.

GET HELP WITH GRANT FUNDING

EMPOWERING STAFF AND STUDENTS
THROUGH SCHOOL SAFETY

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 region, faculty need their communications technology to keep them connected across devices and networks. 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 school communications into the future, visit:
www.motorolasolutions.com/education.

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