

This project was Overbudget by 20% However, ROI in 8 months:

Case Study: San Jose K-8 School (name undisclosed) A K-8 school in San Jose, California faced growing security concerns, especially related to holiday vandalism, vaping on campus, and students staying on school grounds after hours. However, the school had a limited budget for security upgrades and wanted to avoid excessive false alarms that strained police department resources. We conducted a comprehensive security assessment of the school campus.

This included:

- Analyzing incident reports and disciplinary records
- Evaluating existing security systems and procedures
- Surveying administrators, teachers, and parents about top safety concerns
- Inspecting the campus for vulnerabilities in access control, surveillance coverage, and lighting

The assessment revealed several key issues:

- Inadequate camera coverage of the campus perimeter and blind spots
- Lack of remote monitoring and analytics to detect suspicious activity
- No automated system to alert staff of unauthorized access after hours
- Vaping and vandalism occurring in areas with minimal supervision.
- Slow manual process for reviewing security footage after incidents.

Based on these findings, Spade Security developed a 60-day plan to upgrade the school's security technology and procedures cost-effectively:

- Installed smart CCTV cameras with built-in analytics at key locations
- Implemented 24/7 remote monitoring with real-time alerts of suspicious activity
- Set up automated access control system to detect people on campus after hours
- Integrated cameras and access control with a mobile alert system for staff
- Developed an activity-driven response protocol to dispatch security or police

During the first 30 days, Spade Security collected baseline data on campus activity to establish normal patterns. This data was then used to fine-tune the smart camera analytics and alert thresholds. In parallel, the school revised its security policies and procedures to align with the new technology capabilities. A tiered response plan was implemented based on the type of alert and time of day. School staff could now respond quickly to vaping and vandalism incidents, while more serious unauthorized access alerts were immediately escalated to police dispatch. After 60 days, the results were measurable:

- Vaping and vandalism incidents decreased by 75%
- Unauthorized after-hours access attempts were reduced by 86%

- Police were dispatched to the school 90% less frequently.
- Security camera monitoring time was reduced by 80% due to smart alerting.

By focusing on the school's specific pain points and designing an integrated system, Spade Security delivered a customized security solution that improved safety, reduced costs, and strengthened coordination with law enforcement –

Despite the 20% budget overrun, the school expects to see positive financial impacts in several areas:

1. Reduced overtime costs for staff
 - With automated monitoring and alerts, staff no longer need to stay late to ensure the campus is secure after hours, reducing overtime expenses.
2. Lower repair and replacement costs due to vandalism
 - The deterrent effect of visible cameras and faster response to incidents is expected to significantly cut costs associated with vandalism repairs.
3. Decreased false alarm expenses.
 - Smart analytics and real-time video verification will help avoid unnecessary police dispatches, saving on false alarm fees and fines.
4. More efficient use of police resources
 - By providing clear, actionable intelligence to police, the school can help ensure that dispatches are for verified threats, optimizing police time and resources.
5. Improved student attendance and engagement
 - A safer, more secure campus environment is likely to boost attendance rates and student engagement, positively impacting school funding tied to these metrics.

Based on these anticipated savings and benefits, the school projects an ROI for the security upgrades within just 8 months. The long-term financial gains are expected to far outweigh the initial 20% budget overrun.