



## CASE STUDY

# Austin (TX) ISD Recovers Thousands of Dollars Per Month Using Raptor® to Track Attendance

### CHALLENGE

When the Austin Independent School District first engaged Raptor Technologies® several years ago, student and staff safety had long been a top district priority. Austin ISD is the largest district in the fastest-growing large city in the country. With more than 81,000 students on 130 campuses, the district serves a city that is home to the state’s largest university, the seat of state government, and a national center of technology and innovation. Ethnic, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity and dramatic population growth over several consecutive decades have brought big-city challenges to the once famously laid-back college town. In response, Austin ISD administrators sought to increase their efforts in ensuring student safety.



“The reporting capabilities alone almost make it worth its weight in gold.”

- Brenda Richmond, Director, Management Information Systems, Austin (TX) ISD



## AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Austin ISD serves the nation’s 11th-largest city.

- Recovered \$4,000 per month in potentially lost state funding
- Prevents sex offenders from entering AISD schools
- Manages custody issues using the Raptor® system

## SOLUTION

The district chose the Raptor® Visitor Management system to help control access to its campuses. With a simple scan of each visitor's state-issued ID, the Raptor system sends an instant alert when a school is being visited by a person who represents a potential threat. The system has eliminated the need for error-prone paper-and-pencil sign-in sheets and file searches by office staff which "is seen as a huge plus," says Austin ISD Director of Management Information Systems, Brenda Richmond. "Raptor enables us to track visitors in real time at any school, in any location within a school, and by their reason for visiting," she adds. "Approved district employees can use the Raptor system to generate detailed reports on campus visitor traffic, flagged visitors, and more."

"I've known about Raptor Technologies® for a long time, since well before I joined Austin ISD four years ago," Richmond says. "I had prior experience with the system myself, and I was really happy to learn that Austin ISD was a Raptor client. The Raptor system represents a key component in our district's efforts to ensure the safety of our students and staff."

## RESULTS

"Office staff and administrators love Raptor," Richmond emphasizes. "The reporting capabilities alone almost make it worth its weight in gold." The system continues to help the district reveal persons who should not be present on campus. And Richmond sees the system's ability to identify individuals flagged for court orders or custody issues through customizable local databases as perhaps even more important. "Problems arising from custody issues and legal orders are more and more common. Raptor notifies us of those situations instantly, and that helps us keep it all under control."

In the spring of 2018, another benefit of the Raptor system — one that district leaders didn't anticipate — came to light. "The state calculates our funding based on student attendance, so precise attendance-taking every day is critical. Raptor's ability to scan student IDs as well as those of visitors and staff, and to sync with our student information system, uncovered attendance discrepancies that we weren't aware of." One elementary campus was missing a significant number of student attendance days in the SIS, resulting in a potential loss of more than \$4000 in state funding for one month alone. "When you extrapolate that over 9 months, 130 campuses, and more than 80,000 students, **Raptor practically pays for itself!**" Richmond says.

"Would I recommend that other districts consider Raptor Technologies as part of their comprehensive school safety plan? Yes I would, absolutely!"

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— Brenda Richmond, Director,  
Management Information Systems, Austin (TX) ISD

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**PROTECT EVERY CHILD,  
EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY DAY.**

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