

Rural Texas School Improves Emergency Response Processes with Raptor



Located in the small town of Palestine, Texas, Westwood Independent School District teaches 1,340 students across four campuses.

THE CHALLENGE

Westwood ISD implemented Raptor[®] Emergency Management and wanted to see how using Raptor would improve their emergency response capabilities.

Wade Stanford, the district's Superintendent, invited Raptor on-site to help conduct a fire drill at their elementary school.

This allowed the school to test their safety protocols and gain valuable insight into how to improve their processes.



HOW RAPTOR HELPED

“Raptor came on-site and worked closely with our district to answer questions about best practices and collaborate on ways to improve the district’s overall safety,” Wade recalls.

As the school evacuated, staff began accounting for themselves and their students in the Raptor mobile app. The system’s dashboard updated in real-time, giving a quick snapshot of details like who has been accounted for and when. This data allowed district leadership to see how the drill was progressing.

“During the debrief roundtable that followed (the drill), Raptor started working through what we can do differently and how,” Wade began. “We found some weaknesses, like what to do with substitutes and kids that are displaced from their main classrooms. Raptor also pointed out that no one accounted for the Raptor team who was visiting our campus.”

“*We implemented Raptor to keep our school community safe every day.*”

THE RESULTS

Being able to analyze drill performance data in real-time allowed the district to identify holes in their processes. The drill also influenced the school and its stakeholders to collaborate on safety plans, with valuable insight and best practices from Raptor K-12 safety specialists. “Raptor provided us with so much professional growth. The debrief discussions encouraged us to think about other ways we can keep our students and staff safe,” Wade explains. “We could not have asked for a better partner.”

Since this fire drill, the district has done multiple drills with 100% accountability, and they now have the processes to account for everyone on campus, including visitors. This is critical when it comes to emergency response and recovery.

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