RAPTOR

TECHNOLOGIES

Building a Culture of Safety:
How Westerville City Schools
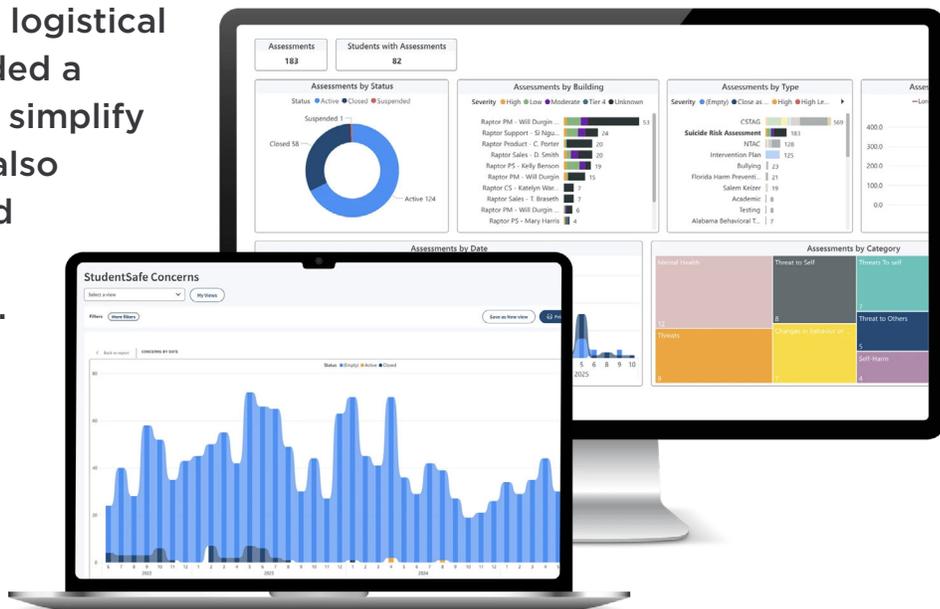# Prioritize Safety & Student Wellbeing

Westerville City School District

Westerville City School District, located in Westerville, OH, supports nearly 15,000 students across 26 schools.

Managing BTA Compliance in a Large District

Ohio law requires all K-12 districts to maintain Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) teams in all schools serving grades 6-12 and ensure that members receive certified training every three years. Westerville City Schools went a step further, establishing BTA teams in every school.

Tracking and verifying training for dozens of staff members across 26 buildings quickly became a logistical challenge. The district needed a system that would not only simplify compliance reporting, but also reinforce accountability and strengthen a culture of school safety at every level.

Creating a Culture of Safety

From building access to drills and lockdown protocols, Westerville City School District wanted to build policies and processes to support a culture of safety. For example, the district invested heavily in access control for each building in the district, which requires a system that can help front office staff easily identify visitors and track who is in the building in the event of an emergency.

Building Accountability & Compliance

With Staff Compliance Training powered by PublicSchoolWORKS (PSW), Westerville City School District has standardized and automated its BTA training program, simplifying certification tracking and renewal.

PSW provides every BTA team member with consistent, state-aligned training. This makes compliance easier and enables leaders to focus more on prevention and engagement, not paperwork.

> PSW helps keep everyone accountable for their training, which I think is critical. And it helps us know when the time allotment for training has passed. We're able to measure that through PSW and help people with accountability to renew their certification.

Steven McElroy
Director of Safety & Security
Westerville CIty School District
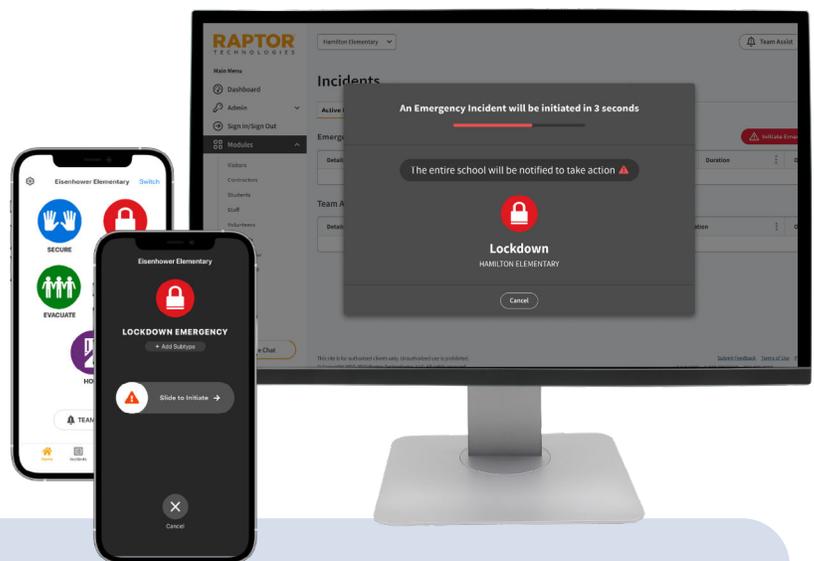
Protecting Every Entry Point

Westerville City Schools paired their building-wide access control systems with Raptor VisitorSafe to manage and document everyone who enters their campuses. This allows front office staff to confidently identify every visitor and creates a record of who is in the building in the event of any emergency.

VisitorSafe also automatically screens each visitor against national sex offender databases, issues identifiable visitor badges, and supports the district's layered approach to campus security.

Accountability & Real-time Response

Raptor Emergency Management has streamlined how the Westerville City Schools track drill compliance and accountability. It helps remind teams of when regular drills are due and provides district leadership with clear insight into how frequently and efficiently those drills are being run. It also allows leadership to celebrate successes and highlight teams that are achieving high accountability standards.

Emergency Management has also transformed Westerville City School District's response to real incidents, which is particularly important with the district spanning three distinct municipalities, each with their own police departments.

During one such incident, a police pursuit moved through one of the Westerville City Schools municipalities. Director of Safety and Security, Steven McElroy shares, "We were able to put our first school, the closest school, on lockdown. Raptor helped us notify the other schools in that vicinity to go on lockdown and use the chat to communicate to those [schools] what was taking place."

RESULTS

By implementing Raptor VisitorSafe, Emergency Management, and BTA training through PSW, Westerville City Schools was able to achieve:

- **Compliance with Ohio BTA training requirements** across all district schools.

- **Faster emergency coordination** across multiple municipalities.

- **A culture of safety embedded across the district,** with staff viewing safety as a shared daily responsibility.

This emphasis on safety informs how Westerville City School District approaches drills, training, and crisis readiness—and with the right tech, they've been able to transform compliance into confidence and process into culture.

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" One of the conversations I continue to try to have in our district is [how] to make safety part of our culture. How safety is just part of our everyday life in schools and to get people comfortable with whatever that process is. And that greatly includes Raptor. "

Steven McElroy
Director of Safety & Security
Westerville CIty School District

LEARN MORE ABOUT RAPTOR®

The Raptor software ecosystem ties together the critical aspects of school safety, from prevention through recovery. Find out how we can work together in our mutual goals of **protecting every child, every school, every day.™**

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