



Making the Right Process Easy: How Novi Community School District Standardized Student Support With Raptor StudentSafe®

Novi Community School District

With staff conducting threat and suicide risk assessments and student support interventions across multiple campuses, Novi Community School District needed standardized processes and centralized documentation.

Novi Community School District in Oakland County, MI

Novi Community School District serves over 6,700 students in the Metro Detroit area, from early childhood through adult education and career preparation. With 11 facilities across their district, Novi Community Schools needed a consistent way for their crisis response teams to document, review, and act on student safety and wellbeing concerns.

For Dennis Huisman, the Supervisor of Safety and Security at Novi Community School District, the biggest need was a system that could make the right processes easy to follow. The district already partnered with Raptor Technologies for emergency and visitor management, putting StudentSafe on their radar when Huisman began evaluating solutions for BTA and suicide risk assessment and interventions. With its ease of use for staff, customization options, and built-in workflows aligned to nationally recognized models and trusted clinical frameworks, StudentSafe was the natural best fit for the district's needs.



We knew that we had to standardize all this stuff, but we also needed to look into streamlining it and making it easier for everybody who's involved in these assessments...After a presentation from Raptor, we looked at [StudentSafe] and we really liked it.



Dennis Huisman
Supervisor of Safety and Security
Novi Community School District

CHALLENGES

Before StudentSafe, most threat assessments were either handwritten or entered into various forms, with no clear, district-wide consensus on which behavioral threat assessment (BTA) methodology to use or where to store completed documents. This was particularly challenging for the crisis response team members who supported multiple campuses throughout the week.

“There wasn’t a lot of data sharing,” recalls Huisman. “There wasn’t a lot of paperwork sharing. So, everything that was either taken down on a computer or in notes was left in a silo and not shared with other people.”

Novi Community Schools needed a solution that could

- standardize suicide risk and threat assessments and create consistent processes
- centralize documentation so records follow students from campus to campus
- reinforce accurate severity level reporting through nationally recognized methodologies
- securely share assessments and follow-up records with all relevant members of the crisis response teams
- give district leaders visibility into patterns, trends, and open cases
- provide step-by-step workflows for all staff to complete consistently

HOW RAPTOR HELPED

StudentSafe helped streamline the process of transitioning the district to the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) model and the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS). With the methodologies built directly into the screening and reporting forms, staff didn't have to remember the approved processes to follow them consistently.

The district's familiarity with the Raptor platform made adopting a new system—along with new processes—that much smoother. “With anything in K-12, ‘new’ is scary,” says Huisman. “So being able to seamlessly bring in StudentSafe...It was kind of like a light switch going on. Everything just worked.”

In addition to standardizing procedures across the district, Raptor StudentSafe gives Novi Community Schools the ability to

- **Build definitions into assessment workflows.** StudentSafe's built-in approved, evidence-based methodologies allowed Huisman to embed CSTAG and C-SSRS severity level definitions directly into the forms' guidance, reducing friction for staff and reinforcing correct categorization.
- **Customize forms to fit their needs.** StudentSafe's form customization allowed the team to build Novi-specific forms for parent interviews, standardizing more informal questions across the district without compromising the integrity of the approved CSTAG or C-SSRS forms.
- **Configure workflows to meet state mandates** without a new system. Working closely with Raptor, Huisman built Michigan's state-mandated seclusion and restraint forms directly into StudentSafe, after noticing special education reporting had similar documentation challenges that had affected district-wide assessment processes.

RESULTS

Novi Community School District now operates with district-level visibility into threat assessments, suicide risk assessments, and seclusion and restraint incidents. Huisman and the other authorized administrators can identify trends, flag buildings that may need additional staffing support, and pull accurate data without digging through manual paperwork or worrying that a critical piece of information is missing.

StudentSafe has also transformed how teams collaborate on complex cases. Authorized staff on any campus can be assigned tasks and securely contribute information through StudentSafe. Huisman can review live assessments remotely, providing immediate guidance without needing to travel to each campus.



People aren't hesitant to collaborate anymore, because they have a tool that makes it easy in these sensitive, high stress situations.



Dennis Huisman
Supervisor of Safety and Security
Novi Community School District

With StudentSafe, Novi Community Schools staff can confidently, correctly, and consistently follow the right processes, while collecting accurate data that the district can trust.

Huisman explains, "Being able to effectively help kids and making things easier for the staff members that are doing it is definitely a major game changer for us."



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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