



West Ada
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safeguarding Schools as Growth Soars

West Ada Schools



Background

Even as the population of the US stagnated at 0.1% in 2021, one state in the West took the national spotlight for skyrocketing growth. Idaho increased in size by 2.9% that year, with nearly 49,000 people moving to the previously underrecognized state with an overall population of just 1.9 million. Most of that boom concentrated on the bedroom communities of the state capital of Boise. Encompassing the rapidly growing residential areas of Eagle, Meridian, and Star, the West Ada School District had to think fast.

Problem Solved:



**Network
Infrastructure**



**Physical
Security**

For nearly a decade, Idaho held the title of the second fastest growing state in the country—and the underlying infrastructure already showed strain. Since 2016, the West Ada School District alone took on nearly 3,000 new students.

Now the largest district in Idaho, West Ada currently serves over 35,000 students. Spanning 58 schools and welcoming so many new faces in students, faculty, and staff, West Ada put safety at the top of their list of priorities.

The district turned to Ednetics, a technology leader providing innovative solutions for schools and public institutions. Building on a successful network refresh, Ednetics worked closely with the district to address their technology growing pains and increasing security concerns under a fixed budget. Continuous improvements to the network infrastructure and security of K-12 school districts are a key component of technology in education. By taking a collaborative, forward-looking approach, Ednetics and the district pinpointed an affordable, sustainable solution that would integrate with existing systems and scale with future IT.

The Plan

West Ada and Ednetics first zeroed in on creating a plan that would improve situational awareness and intentionally limit access to buildings through monitored entrances. Using security cameras, electronic access systems, and locked doors, West Ada could easily track who entered and exited each location—and restrict access to only those authorized.

Ednetics set up 450 security cameras throughout the district to monitor buildings. With the ability to record and stream live video feeds, West Ada can immediately spot and stay aware of any threat or incident.

Ednetics also installed an Axis/2N video intercom solution that's routed through the phone system in each building so staff could easily communicate with visitors prior to entry. The only way to enter a school now requires electronic credentials or authorization by building staff.

The district's new security check involves a three-step process for added peace of mind. Using this electronic access control solution, visitors are generally allowed in the foyer or vestibule first, followed by the front office, before being granted entry to the main building.



Flexibility in the Digital Age

West Ada needed an instant alert solution everyone could use too. Ednetics brought InformaCast technology to the district. Focused on speed, reach, and event management, this mass notification system keeps teachers, staff, students, and parents informed with intrusive text and audio alerts that go off in the press of a button. Using a mobile app or wearable badge, teachers can activate an alert that provides their safety team with their name and location. This results in the quickest response time possible to get help. From teachers and administrators to security and facilities, mass notification tools offer the flexibility schools need that go beyond standard emergency use cases.

In this digital age, many of the services and resources used by K-12 schools—including online education portals, grading systems, online assessments, and communication tools—all require access to a stable and secure network infrastructure. By providing a reliable and protected way for data to travel from one machine to another, network switches form the foundation of any networking as the critical link between different hardware components. Ednetics refreshed 200 network switches in the district to ensure the most up-to-date hardware is always in use.

Even when facing the ever-evolving challenges of massive growth, Ednetics proactively works with schools to prepare IT infrastructures that meet budgets and increasing demands. With this technology backup, West Ada is ready for what's next.



West Ada has big tech demands.

- 62 facilities, including 58 schools
- Over 35,000 students
- Over 20,000 devices
- 1,850 Wireless Access Points



Ednetics adds big-picture IT.

- Refreshed all 200 network switches
- Installed 450 cameras
- Added intercom solutions
- Set up instant mass notification system



Technology for public good.

Since 1997, Ednetics has been a leading provider of education-focused IT solutions. We were founded by passionate experts who saw the potential of technology to revolutionize learning with safer, more engaging environments. Recognizing the many similarities between the IT needs of school districts, universities, colleges, libraries, and local government agencies, Ednetics develops innovative solutions for each of these sectors and distributes them throughout the US.

At Ednetics, we believe that technology can be a force for good. With our deep expertise and sense of responsibility, we provide real-time problem solving and future planning to help our clients operate securely and successfully. From K-12 schools to higher education institutions to state and local governments, Ednetics partners with organizations to meet evolving needs and achieve their missions through the power of IT.

