

## **Columbus Independent School District (ISD)**

Strengthening School Safety with Hirsch's Integrated Security Solutions



“Hirsch’s stellar technical support team has been awesome — going above and beyond to make this a stable, all-encompassing solution.

We’re leaps and bounds better than before.”

**Zachary Venghaus**

**Director of Technology, Columbus ISD**

#### **INDUSTRY**

K-12 Education

#### **END USER**

Columbus Independent School District (ISD)

#### **DEALER**

Iron Forge

#### **PROJECT TYPE**

Integrated Video Surveillance and Access Control Implementation

#### **SCOPE**

Deployment of Hirsch’s Velocity Vision for centralized video surveillance and Primis access control with ASSA ABLOY wireless locks across four schools, a transportation center, and an athletics complex, replacing outdated NVRs and Paxton systems for enhanced security and operational efficiency.

#### **HIRSCH SOLUTIONS**

- Velocity Vision Video Management System (VMS)
- Primis Access Control
- uTrust TS Keypad Readers





## THE CHALLENGE

Columbus ISD needed a unified security system to replace a cumbersome network of over 15 NVRs and an unreliable Paxton access control setup, improving safety across its six sites while reducing management complexity and ensuring budget-friendly scalability.

## THE SOLUTION

Hirsch, through Iron Forge, implemented Velocity Vision VMS and Primis access control with ASSA ABLOY wireless locks and uTrust TS Keypad Readers, delivering a stable, integrated platform that enhances visibility and control with minimal IT overhead.

## THE NEXT STEPS

Following a successful rollout, Columbus ISD plans to expand Hirsch's solutions to new classroom additions at its high school and elementary campuses, adding access control and video surveillance to further secure its growing facilities.



## Business Situation

Columbus Independent School District, located centrally between Houston, Austin, and San Antonio in Colorado County, Texas, serves approximately 1,600 students and 240 staff across four schools, a transportation center, and an athletics complex. The district faced mounting security challenges with an outdated system of over 15 individual NVRs for video surveillance and a Paxton access control solution that lacked reliability and centralized management. Frequent power failures darkened cameras, key-based perimeter security was insufficient, and administrative oversight was labor-intensive. Columbus ISD sought an integrated, scalable security solution to protect students and staff while aligning with unpredictable school funding cycles.

## Technical Situation

Prior to Hirsch's involvement, Columbus ISD relied on a patchwork of NVRs — each tied to IP cameras but vulnerable to power outages — and a Paxton10 system installed without IT input, leading to operational inefficiencies. Key challenges included:

- **Fragmented Video Management:** Multiple NVRs required individual remote access, complicating footage retrieval and risking data loss.

- **Unreliable Access Control:** Paxton's magnetic locks and PoE-dependent setup failed to secure doors effectively, posing safety risks.
- **Budget Constraints:** High licensing costs (e.g., Verkada) were unsustainable for long-term planning.
- **Scalability Needs:** The district needed a system to grow with future expansions without excessive maintenance.

Iron Forge recommended Hirsch's Velocity Vision VMS and Primis access control solutions to unify video and access control into a stable, cost-effective platform.

## Solution

Hirsch delivered an integrated security ecosystem tailored to Columbus ISD's needs, replacing NVRs with Velocity Vision VMS and upgrading access control with Primis and ASSA ABLOY wireless locks. Key components included:

- **Velocity Vision VMS:** Centralized video surveillance across four servers (one per campus plus a main hub), leveraging existing IP cameras via creative VLAN configurations and fiber connectivity for real-time monitoring
- **Primis Access Control:** Replaced Paxton with a reliable system featuring uTrust TS Keypad Readers at gates and ASSA ABLOY Sargent IN120 wireless locks on 58 targeted doors, reducing wiring costs
- **Support Excellence:** Hirsch's stellar technical support team provided hands-on programming and troubleshooting, ensuring a smooth deployment despite initial challenges

This solution streamlined security management, enhanced visibility, and fortified campus safety with minimal ongoing costs.

## Conclusion

Columbus ISD transformed its security infrastructure with Hirsch's Velocity Vision and Primis solutions, moving from a disjointed, unstable setup to a unified platform that prioritizes student safety and operational stability. Key outcomes include:

- **Enhanced Building Security:** Electronic panic bars and keypad readers replaced unreliable magnets and keys, ensuring controlled access.
- **Stable Video Surveillance:** Centralized VMS eliminated NVR vulnerabilities, providing consistent footage access.
- **Reduced Management Burden:** A single-pane view cut administrative effort, with Hirsch support resolving hiccups fast.
- **Future-Ready Flexibility:** Budget-friendly design supports expansion without licensing worries.

With plans to secure new classroom additions, Columbus ISD, Iron Forge, and Hirsch continue to strengthen school safety across the district.

