



Use Case: This Western NY Private School Uses OSCR360 to Organize & Train on their School Safety Plans

L-Tron recently had the opportunity to sit down with the Director of School Safety and Security from a small private school in Western New York to hear their thoughts on OSCR360. It has been about a year since the school acquired and started using the OSCR360 System within their school safety plans.



Both the school and Director asked to remain anonymous to protect the privacy and security of students and staff.

Attending Private School in Western NY

This private school serves approximately 500 students from several counties in Western New York and employs about 150 staff members. The student and faculty population are spread across a single PreK-12th grade campus which contains several buildings and outdoor athletic fields. Boasting small class sizes and exceptional academic opportunities, the school is innovative in its approaches to education and safety.

In Western NY, the school year runs from September through June, and in this period, the weather varies significantly. Environmental conditions in the area have been known to cause power outages, school closings and early dismissals.

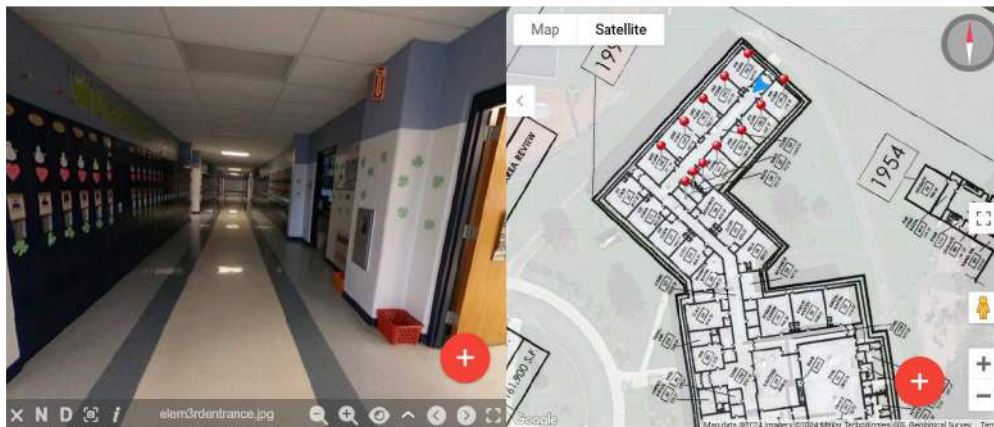
Like other schools in the country, additional safety concerns include potential fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, utility failures, hazmat incidents, violence within the school, and active shooter threats.

Although the school's private status leaves it exempt from following New York State safety plan laws, school stakeholders feel strongly about following best practices to ensure the safety of the school community.



Creating a Virtual Walkthrough

The Director of School Safety and Security first documented the campus with OSC360 in December 2023. The process included capturing each classroom, office, hallway, closet, and space with the OSC360 360-degree Camera and labeling key points of interest with the OSC360 Tablet. Next, in the Desktop Software, the Director marked additional points of interest, such as the locations of AEDs, exit doors, fire extinguishers, and security cameras. The resulting virtual walkthrough of the campus was thorough and easy to follow, even for someone who had never set foot on campus.



Creating safety plans

The Director of School Safety and Security is heavily focused on training the school community with processes to follow during emergencies. They have created a 60-page (and counting) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) with contingencies for a wide variety of incidents. Since so many possible threatening situations exist, they explained that it is important to have comprehensive plans that can be used for multiple scenarios.

OSCR360 is instrumental in efficient plan creation because viewers can virtually refer to any location on campus without physically traveling there. Plans, notes, documents, forms, and more can all be stored within the OSC360 project for easy recall, as well.

Collaborating with first responders

The Director added points of interest relevant to the local first responders, which included the school's lock box with maps, keys, and critical utility locations. The Director also mentioned that finished OSCR360 projects were shared with local Law Enforcement, using the free OSCR360 viewer. The project was well-received and considered far superior to a "flat" floor plan.



Training

The Director shared the challenging nature of safety planning or training in a group situation. OSCR360 is helpful here in showing participants 360-degree images alongside a traditional map to provide a full perspective.

Conducting tabletop exercises allows for discussion around the school's existing plans, including the identification of any possible issues that may arise and cause problems. The Director frequently relies on OSCR360 during crisis committee meetings and tabletop exercises, so participants can see exactly what is being discussed, rather than trying to envision certain locations by memory.

Recent meetings and exercises in which OSCR360 was beneficial have included evacuation procedure walk-throughs, safety plan review, and learning about how the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is useful in emergency scenarios.

Over time, the Director plans to incorporate the Standard Response Protocol into the school's current safety plans. These plans work hand-in-hand with OSCR360 to provide common language and common understandings around the school's safety processes. Within OSCR360, locations and points of interest are labeled with common terminology that is shared, not only with staff, but with emergency first responders, as well.

Solving Future Challenges with OSCR360

Next up for the Director is leading the school community in reunification drills and exercises with OSCR360. The school safety team itself has visited the reunification site, but other faculty and students have not. During a true evacuation scenario, however, it would be critical for everyone to be familiar with the reunification environment and associated plans.

Conducting a reunification drill requires a great deal of time and effort. According to the Director, the logistics of bringing a large group of trainees to the reunification site for a live drill is just not possible.

Instead, the Director plans to document the reunification site with OSCR360, just as they documented the school campus, so participants can more easily wrap their heads around what a reunification scenario would actually be like. During the drill itself, the staff would take turns role-playing to practice the reunification scenario from multiple perspectives: staff, students, and parents.

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OSCR360 will give staff a leg up to visualize the space and understand how it will be set up. Many schools are detached and unprepared for the complexity of reunification, but OSCR360 can help. It is much more ‘hands-on’ than verbally describing the plan or looking at a map. What’s more, is if a parent asks me about reunification, I can clearly answer and proactively let parents know the plans prior to an incident occurring.

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– School Safety Director

We would like to thank the Director of School Safety and Security for taking the time to share their thoughts with us. We wish the school community all the best.

OSCR360 Made in the USA

OSCR360 is the single platform to build and store your school district's school safety plans. The system allows users to document their buildings, create safety plans and train for any scenario. The system includes features based on collaboration and feedback from school safety teams, first responders, law enforcement, photographers, engineers and other subject matter experts.

Currently, OSCR is being used by: Universities and Schools for emergency pre-planning and course curriculum, Law Enforcement, Attorneys, Fire Departments, Environmental Safety and Protection, and by Federal, State, Local and Private Agencies.



Questions?

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OSCR360 is patented: L-Tron.com/patents