

RAPTOR[®]

TECHNOLOGIES

THE GOLD STANDARD IN SCHOOL SAFETY

CASE STUDY

Community Unit District 300 (IL) Eases Workload of Volunteer Screening

COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT 300 (IL)



- 26 schools (15 elementary, 4 middle, 2 K-8, 2 community, 3 high schools)
- 3,622 active volunteers (2018-2019)
- 8,378 volunteer sign-ins
- 4,677 approved applications
- 34 denied applications

Community Unit District 300 is headquartered in the NW Chicago suburb of Algonquin, IL.

CHALLENGE

In response to an increase in violent incidents in schools nationwide, Community Unit District 300, located in the northwest Chicago suburbs, moved proactively to raise the level of student and staff security in all 26 schools and its district office. In the fall of 2016, District 300 implemented the Raptor Visitor Management system to screen all visitors prior to admitting them to any of the district's buildings.

The Visitor Management system scans each visitor's state-issued ID, capturing basic information, including the visitor's name, address, birthdate, photograph, and the last four digits of the ID's unique number, and screens this information against sex offender databases in all 50 states. It also screens the identifying information against any locally customized alert databases listing custody restrictions, dismissed former employees, banned visitors, etc. "Part of our approach to school safety is maintaining a hard 'no admittance' rule for unauthorized visitors," says District 300 Director of Safety and Security Todd Rohlwing. "Raptor helps us do that."

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Seeking to extend that level of security to include the district's parent and community volunteer program, which currently has more than 3,600 active volunteers and sees nearly 8,400 volunteer sign-ins annually, the district turned to a familiar partner.

SOLUTION

"There were several things we needed to address regarding our volunteer program," Rohlwing states. "We were processing volunteer applications on a building-by-building basis using lengthy paper applications. District policy requires that all volunteers re-apply and undergo new screening each school year, because a person's criminal background, including sex offender status, can change. So manual processing of new volunteer applications plus renewals every year was becoming something of a task. We already knew and liked Raptor®, so the decision was easy."

District 300 rolled out the Raptor Volunteer Management system in the fall of 2018. "Raptor enabled us to put our application online and to automate our processing. Basically overnight, a process that used to be a whole lot of work became much, much easier," continues Rohlwing.

The Volunteer Management system allows prospective volunteers to apply through a user-friendly online tool. The system checks applicants for sex offender status and compiles criminal background results for simple review, approval, and tracking. An array of easily accessed reports, including volunteer hours and top volunteers, by school or districtwide, can be quickly exported.

RESULTS

"Raptor has eased the burden of processing stacks of applications and renewals at each school," Rohlwing says. "Volunteers are still approved by each school's staff, but that's quickly and much more easily accomplished using the Raptor system." Potential volunteers themselves appreciate the ease of use of the online application tool. "Parents and community members find it much more convenient to complete the volunteer application process online," explains Rohlwing.

"About the only issue with prospective volunteers is their occasional impatience regarding confirmation of approval status. Raptor screens applicants quickly, and we almost always have results within a day. Sometimes a volunteer applicant will wait until the last minute to apply—like the night before a field trip on which they'd like to accompany their child—and we'll be fielding an urgent phone call or two. We make every effort to communicate the idea of application timeliness to prospective volunteers."

Rohlwing concludes by stating that he whole-heartedly recommends the Raptor system to any district seeking enhanced visitor and volunteer management capability. "In my position as safety and security director, I am familiar with Raptor in operation from both the administration and user sides. Day in, day out, I see its effectiveness. And with Raptor's seamless customer support, I just can't say enough. It's really, really good."

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**PROTECT EVERY CHILD,
EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY DAY.**

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