



CASE STUDY

Springs Charter Schools (CA) Keeps Facilities Safer, Saves Money with Raptor® System

SPRINGS CHARTER (CA) SCHOOLS



- Springs Charter Schools offers 19 student centers, homeschooling programs, blended learning programs, and tailored online learning to students in grades K-12 in six counties in Southern California
- 4 additional learning centers opening for 2019-2020
- 315 approved volunteers

CHALLENGE

Prior to 2018, Jeanne Schaffner CSRM, safety and risk manager for Springs Charter Schools in Southern California, faced a challenge regarding her administration’s ability to know precisely who was entering their facilities. “Our visitor check-in protocol included a twice-a-year, 5-mile-radius Megan’s Law sex offender search to familiarize each building staff with the offenders living near our facilities,” Schaffner says. “We weren’t really uncomfortable with the situation—we didn’t think we’d ever had an issue—until a couple of parents popped up on the search. That forced us to re-examine our procedures and look for a better way.”

“We realized two things,” Schaffner continues. “One, we really didn’t know who was walking in the door, and two, that twice-annual sex offender search would never be enough to protect our students and staff members to the degree we felt we needed to. Our parents choose to engage us to help educate their children in part because we offer a different, and we feel better, learning environment for their students. Part of being better is being safer, and it was my job to make us safer. So, I started hunting for a solution.”



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— Jeanne Schaffner, Safety & Risk Manager, Springs Charter Schools (CA)



"I first learned about the Raptor® Visitor Management system at The "I Love U Guys" Foundation® 'Briefings' national school safety meeting, and then I saw it again at the Safe Schools Conference in Anaheim," Schaffner says. "I got in touch with a neighboring traditional elementary school that used the Raptor system, and they invited me to come by and watch it in action. Seeing it work convinced me, and I began speaking with our board about funding. I kept after them and stayed in touch with the Raptor rep, and eventually, in the summer of 2018, we got the OK to purchase and begin implementation."

SOLUTION

Springs Charter Schools went live with the Raptor system in October 2018. The organization uses all the available Raptor Visitor Management modules—visitor, contractor, student, and staff—plus the Raptor® Volunteer Management system and Raptor Drill Manager®.

"Raptor has completely changed our campus access protocols for the better," Schaffer emphasizes. "Visitor check-in is more thorough now, without being too time-consuming." With the Raptor system, each visitor's state-issued ID is scanned against sex offender databases in all 50 states as well as customized local databases listing custody bans, court orders, dismissed employees, and other specific visitor bans. A positive hit signals front office staff and alerts building administrators and a designated list of persons who can intercept the intruder before he or she enters further into the building. The system can print a sticker badge for each visitor or contractor with a photo taken directly from the person's ID to indicate to building staff that the person has been screened and is allowed access to the facility. "We use the student module for early parent pick-ups and student check-outs, and because we have teachers and staff who work at multiple locations, it helps our various building staffs know exactly who's who," Schaffer adds.

RESULTS

Since going live, Springs has had three additional positive alerts. "Two were contractors, one of whom was a registered sex offender who had been working in our buildings for seven years,"

Schaffer explains. "We also flagged the spouse of a staff member who had not previously been reported to us as a sex offender. As I said, it's dramatically improved our level of security."

Springs administrators have enthusiastically embraced the Raptor system. "Our principals said they couldn't wait to have Raptor up and running," says Schaffer. Front office staff took to the system as well. "Our office people love Raptor, knowing that it keeps us safer and will ultimately make their jobs easier." Springs Charter implemented the Raptor Volunteer Management system to process and manage their parent and community volunteers. "We used to use a lengthy paper application. With Raptor's online application and status check functions, our school staffs don't have to handle those stacks of paper or answer constant questions about prospective volunteers' approval status. That's a big plus."

"And Drill Manager has just been huge. There's nothing else out there like it. Believe me, we looked!" laughs Schaffer. "The ability to schedule and direct drills from a single dashboard, the automatic email notifications—it's really helping us with compliance. Plus, we save money by not having to hire a dedicated drill management and compliance person."

"I advertise that we use Raptor in our parent handbook. We want that reputation—that our schools have that extra level of protection," continues Schaffer. "If another district were to ask me about Raptor, I'd invite them to one of our schools to watch it in operation. It's that good."

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If another school or district were to ask me whether I'd recommend Raptor, I'd invite them to one of our facilities to sit down and watch it in operation. It's that good.

— Jeanne Schaffner, Safety & Risk Manager,
Springs Charter Schools (CA)

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

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