



Case Study



Florence 1 Schools Puts the Focus Back on Student Learning with Evolv Express® Security Screening

Florence 1 Schools

Goals

- Address lengthy security queues at school entrances
- Minimize students' tardiness due to security screening delays
- Create a safer environment that helps facilitate learning

"Our principals, administrators, and teachers are investing in our security by using Evolv."

Carter, Eighth Grade, Southside Middle School

Outcomes



Cut number of security systems from over **100** walkthrough metal detectors to **23** Express systems



Streamlined secondary screenings with contextual threat detection and Genetec Integration



Addressed security screening delays



Lowered number of teachers and staff needed to manage security screening by **86%**

Leading with a Culture of Safety

In the Florence (South Carolina) 1 School District, which has 16,000 students across 20 schools, “safety is our number one priority ...,” according to Kyle Jones, the District’s Deputy Superintendent.

Following the 2018 Parkland, FL shooting, Florence 1 implemented traditional walkthrough metal detectors at its three high schools and four middle schools. While initially necessary, the school determined that these metal detectors were not scalable to meet their ongoing needs. The existing security setup involved five or six teachers per metal detector and had teachers rotating on screening duty one morning per week.

Streamlined Security Reduced Staffing Burden

Florence 1 partnered with Evolv to strategically implement 23 Evolv Express® systems across its schools, replacing over 100 walkthrough metal detectors, a significant reduction in infrastructure. With the Evolv Express systems, Florence 1 reduced the staffing needed for screening by 86%. Eric Robinson, Principal at Wilson High School, described the new streamlined process: “Now, with Evolv, only three staff members are needed (per system)—one managing flow, one handling threat resolution, and another for bag checks.”

Reducing Delays and Enhancing Learning with Evolv

Evolv also provided comprehensive, on-site training tailored to Florence 1’s specific needs. Brandi Winstead, Guidance Counselor at John W. Moore Middle School, remarked, “Evolv was present every step of the way, providing thorough training and ensuring we felt comfortable and prepared for deployment. Their team stayed on-site several days after launch to ensure everything operated smoothly.” Jones continues, “Evolv worked closely with us to optimize system placement, ensuring effective traffic flow and efficient entry.”

Florence 1 highlighted pain points with their previous security measures, noting that entry lines often delayed students from reaching their first period on time and increased their chances of waiting outside in bad weather. They “had to give out a huge number of late passes because the car and bus lines were backed up,” said Bobby Jolly, a Behavioral Specialist at Southside Middle School. The new process with Evolv greatly impacted entry lines and secondary screenings. Larry Roland, Assistant Principal at Wilson High School, stated, “Students enter efficiently, helping them start the school day on time and ready to learn.”



Integration with Genetec Security Center, VMS Platform

Another benefit with implementing Evolv is the ability to integrate into their SOC, specifically integrate with Genetec Security Center, VMS platform. “Because we utilize non-security staff for security screening, we want to send verified alarms in real time to our security staff who are subject-matter experts. The Genetec integration automatically notifies our Security Desk any time a verified alarm occurs.” In addition to the verified alert and requests for assistance, meta data and threat images from Evolv appear in the Genetec Security Center console in real-time.

A Partnership Built on Support, Trust, and Transparency

The shift to Evolv Express systems significantly supports Florence 1 Schools’ mission to create safer experiences conducive to learning. Students also welcomed the addition of Evolv. Carter, an eighth grader, believes that “our principals, administrators, and teachers are investing in our security by using Evolv.” Lasheby, a senior recounts, “I don’t need to take out my iPhone and AirPods and can leave them in my bag.”

Florence 1 highly values the transparency and ongoing partnership with Evolv. Jones noted, “Evolv has provided a ‘white-glove’ experience, actively seeking feedback and clearly communicating capabilities and limitations. Their transparency ensures we understand exactly what we can achieve with their technology.”

Jones concluded, “Implementing Evolv demonstrates our commitment to safety and provides peace of mind for students, parents, and staff. It empowers everyone in our district to focus on education, knowing that we have an advanced, integrated security solution in place.”



Contact us to learn more.

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