



BUILT FOR SCHOOL SAFETY:

**How Premier Wireless + UScellular
Help Schools Stay Connected,
Protected, and Prepared**



Introduction

While school districts across the nation strive to provide the best education possible, they face increasing challenges that extend beyond the classroom—ranging from natural disasters and network outages to the growing concern of on-campus safety threats.

When a crisis strikes, every second matters. Reliable communication is critical—but too often, outdated infrastructure and fragile networks become a weak point. This resource outlines the key communication challenges schools face and shares practical strategies to strengthen safety systems through resilient, backup-ready solutions.

This guide was created to help school leaders, IT directors, and safety teams explore what's possible when preparing their campuses for the unexpected.

The Problem: Traditional School Networks Aren't Built for Chaos

While districts continue to invest in safety—from surveillance to mental health—communication remains a common gap. Even the best security camera can't coordinate a response, and a locked door can't call 911.

What Breaks Down During Emergencies?

Many schools rely on a patchwork of systems:

- Aging phone lines
- Wi-Fi-dependent VoIP
- Two-way radios
- PA systems reliant on local power

During a crisis, the following systems are often impacted:

- PA and intercom systems go silent.
- 911 access fails due to retired POTS lines or Wi-Fi loss.
- Radios and panic buttons struggle to connect through congested networks.
- Security camera and access control systems may be unreachable.



What the Data Shows

According to recent government and industry reports:

Over 27%

of schools experienced communication disruptions during emergencies (NCES).

78%

of IT/network outages stem from preventable issues like equipment failure or congestion (Uptime Institute).

21 million

Americans have been affected by 911 communication failures in the past decade (FCC).

The result? Delays in lockdowns, difficulty reaching law enforcement, lack of student tracking, and an inability to update or reassure families.

Physical Security Isn't Enough

Cameras, door sensors, and metal detectors can't replace the need for reliable, two-way communication. Schools need systems that allow staff to:

- Broadcast campus-wide instructions—even during outages
- Contact emergency services with accurate location data
- Maintain secure communication across staff and responders
- Ensure door access, alerts, and visibility continue uninterrupted



What Schools Can Do: A Guide to Building a More Resilient Safety Plan

Premier Wireless and UScellular work with school districts to design layered communication systems that remain functional—even when primary networks fail. Here are several options to consider:

1 Enable Network Redundancy with Hot Failover

Backup systems like SpeedFusion Hot Failover help maintain connectivity by switching between cellular and wired networks, without dropping calls or sessions. This ensures emergency tools remain usable.

2 Modernize POTS Line Replacements

As POTS lines are decommissioned, cellular-based emergency phones offer reliable voice, SMS, and 911-capable video communication with accurate location data.

3 Deploy Portable Cellular Routers

Mobile routers can bring secure Wi-Fi to:

- Temporary classrooms or trailers
- Field learning environments
- Emergency response zones on campus

4 Match Devices to Roles

From administrators to custodial teams, different staff need different tools:

- Desk phones for front office coordination
- Smartphones or tablets for mobile staff
- Two-way radios or basic phones for backup use
- UCaaS systems for flexible communication across platforms

5 Establish Mobile Command Kits with ReadyLink

Premier's ReadyLink kits provide a portable command center equipped with:

- Dual SIM cellular for redundancy
- Rugged devices for use in any conditions
- Real-time tracking of personnel and students
- Emergency-ready LTE deployment tools

Integrate Panic Alerts with Tools Like CRISISGO

- 6** Staff can activate mobile panic buttons that instantly contact 911 and send alerts to pre-defined groups—whether or not the school's Wi-Fi is online.

Consider Transportation Safety Add-ons (Optional)

- 7** For districts that need it, tools like ConnectED BUS and Crosswalk K12 help transportation teams stay in touch with students and drivers—though this guide primarily focuses on in-building safety.

Working Within Your Budget

We understand that funding can be a challenge. That's why we support schools in identifying and applying for grant opportunities such as:

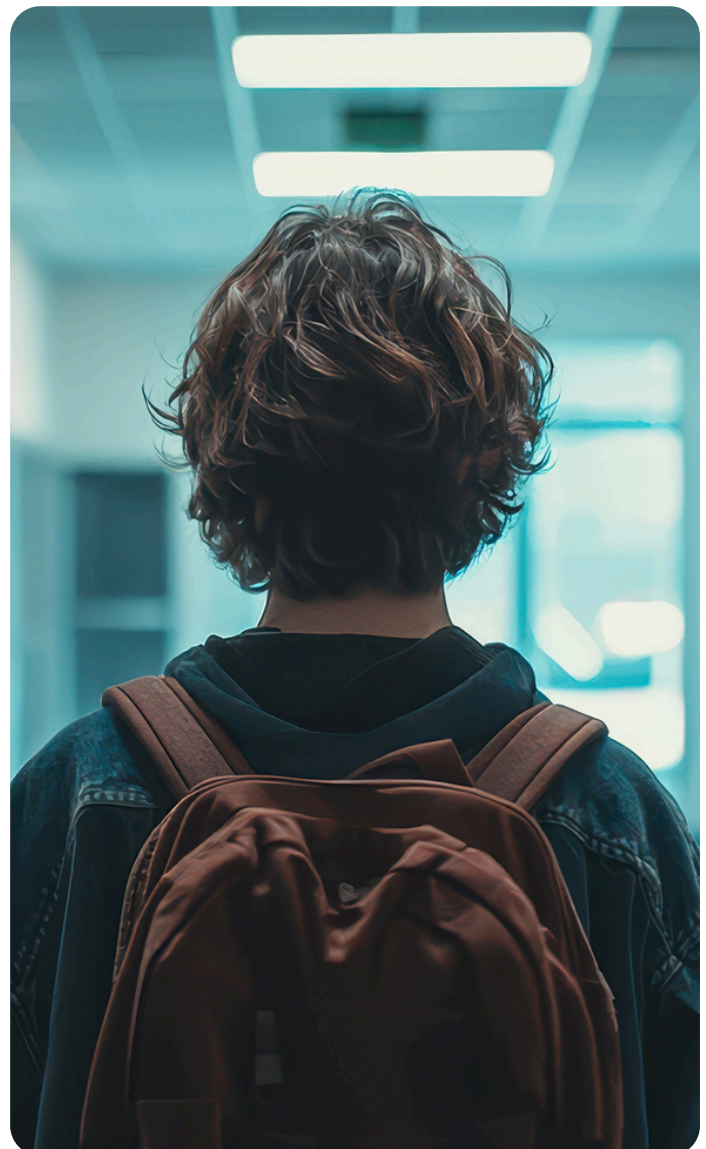
- ✓ **School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)**
- ✓ **STOP School Violence others.**

While we don't write applications for you, we guide districts through the process—offering examples, templates, and advice based on what's worked for others.

Final Thoughts

Preparing your district for communication failures doesn't mean overhauling every system. Start by identifying the most critical gaps and layering in support where it's needed most. Backup connectivity, mobile tools, and failover capabilities can go a long way in protecting your staff and students.

This guide is meant to be a resource as you continue building a safety strategy that's resilient, reliable, and ready for anything. If you have questions or want to learn more about any of the solutions mentioned, we're here to help.



Let's Talk About Your District's Plan B

Every district has unique safety needs—and your communication systems should reflect that. Premier Wireless and U.S. Cellular work together to help K–12 schools design smarter, more resilient strategies for staying connected during critical moments.

Whether you're dealing with aging infrastructure, unreliable networks, or budget constraints, we can help you explore practical, scalable options that fit your goals.

Schedule a call with our team to talk through your current setup, identify your biggest gaps, and see how our education-focused solutions can support your district.

No pressure—just honest guidance and insights from experts who've helped schools like yours across the region.

Secure My Communications

