

# Texas school district thinks outside the [knox] box for enhanced school security

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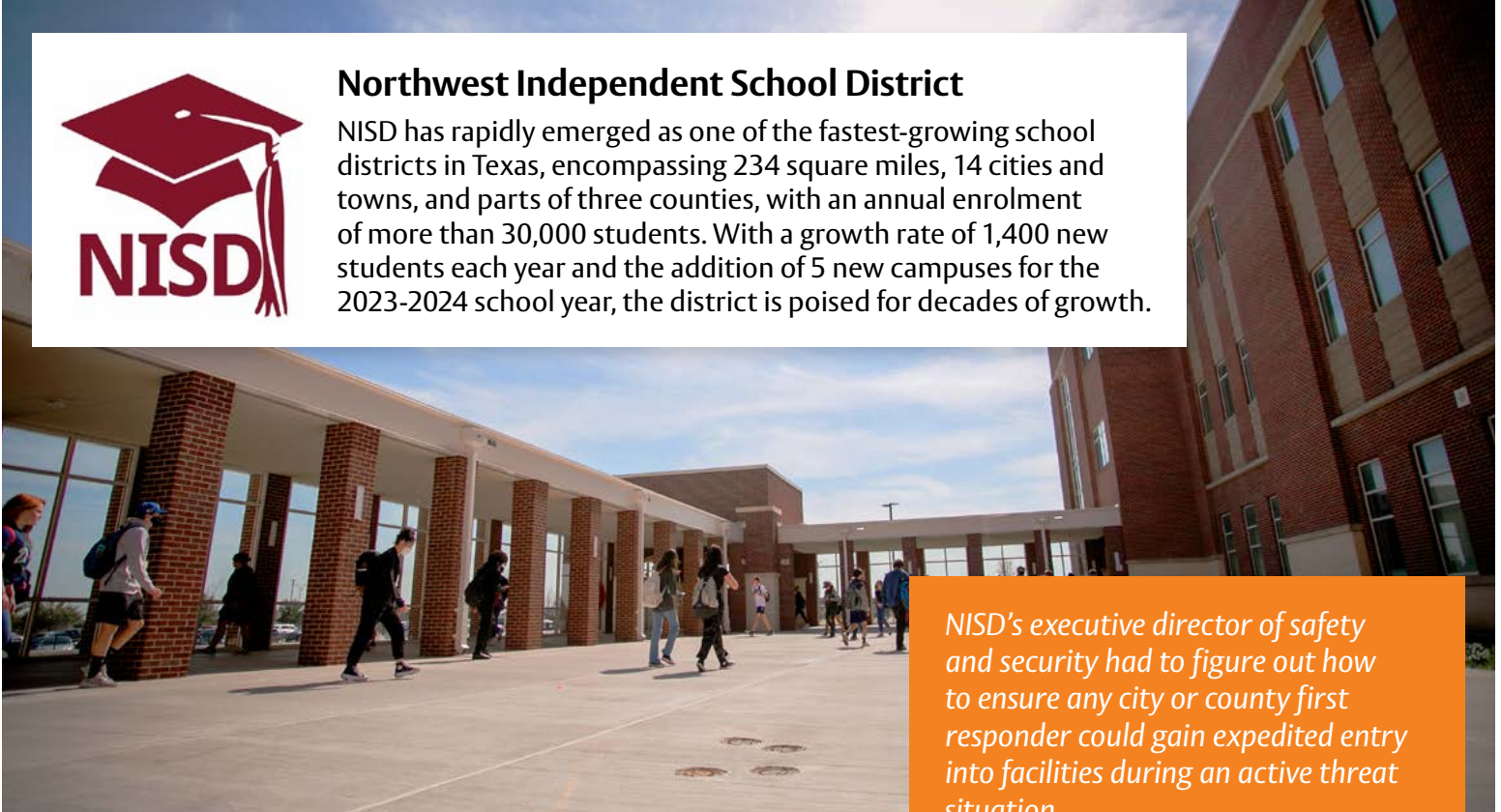
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## Northwest Independent School District

NISD has rapidly emerged as one of the fastest-growing school districts in Texas, encompassing 234 square miles, 14 cities and towns, and parts of three counties, with an annual enrolment of more than 30,000 students. With a growth rate of 1,400 new students each year and the addition of 5 new campuses for the 2023-2024 school year, the district is poised for decades of growth.



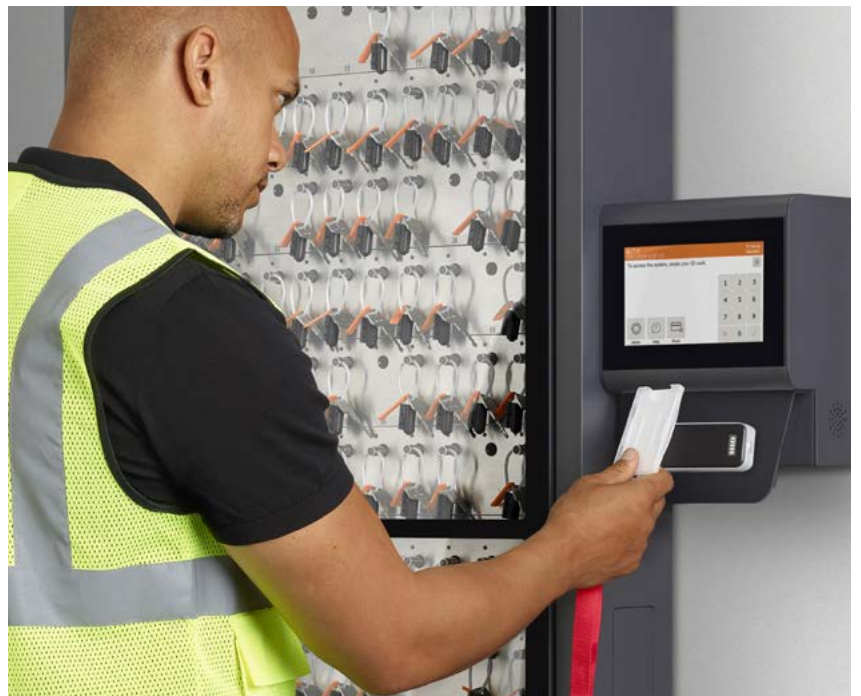
*NISD's executive director of safety and security had to figure out how to ensure any city or county first responder could gain expedited entry into facilities during an active threat situation.*

## Challenges

The State of Texas implemented new mandates aimed at improving school safety, such as independent assessments of school security measures, the development of active shooter plans, and additional funding for upgrading security protocols.

The biggest hurdle for the sprawling district was finding the right solution for managing emergency key access for first responders across dozens of city and county agencies. They needed a way to reduce access times, while increasing security and creating centralized visibility across all district facilities.

The final requirement was to implement a unified system that could expand upon their existing access control infrastructure, providing authorized responders fast, controlled access to a small inventory of critical facility keys.



# The solution

The district saw an opportunity to expand their existing Traka electronic key cabinet solution being used for fleet vehicles to also manage facility keys. By purchasing key fobs for individual first responders, the district was able to provide fast and automated key access for first responders in emergencies, regardless of their agency, and without unnecessary duplication and distribution of sensitive facility keys.

To benefit managers and administrator's, the systems are seamlessly integrated with the district's access control platform. This provides centralized control and visibility over key access, while enabling easier management of all user credentials, including those provided to local agencies.

Notifications have been implemented to immediately notify administrators should a key go missing or not be returned by a set curfew. Any key not returned on time initiates an investigation, during which time all system access can be revoked for increased security.

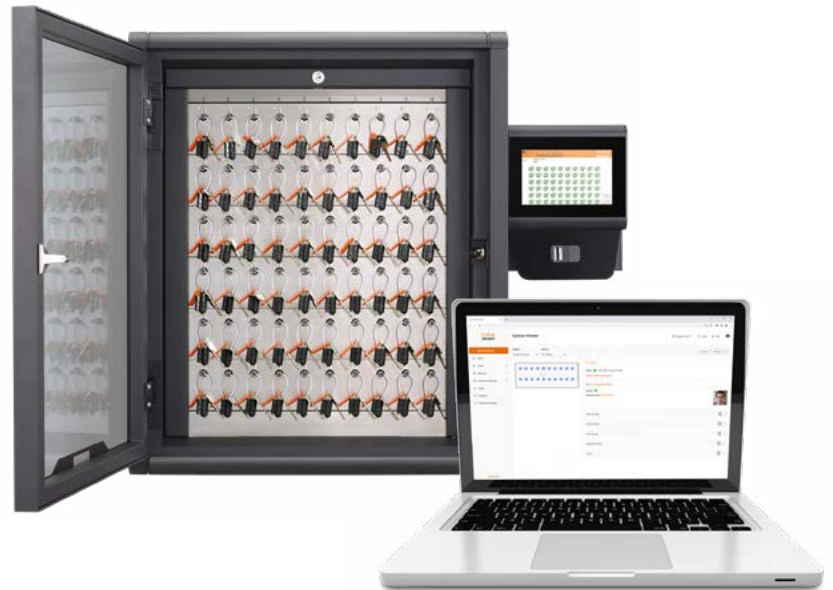


- Solution integrated with access control for efficient administration and centralized visibility
- 250 local first responders carry intelligent key fobs that can quickly unlock every critical key in all NISD facilities
- Less physical keys are required, limiting risk exposure

# The results

The Northwest Independent School District was able to integrate existing systems, and leverage Traka's flexible software features to meet the state's requirements for heightened security and rapid emergency response.

The solution meets the various access needs of facilities throughout the district, while providing administrators centralized visibility of day-to-day activity. Should a worst-case incident ever occur, the school is now prepared for a coordinated and effective response by local authorities, and equipped to manage its ever-growing access needs.



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