

cameras highly visible to help deter criminal or mischievous behavior.

For buildings with suspended ceilings, LenSec installed AXIS 210 Fixed Network Cameras in housing that replaced one of the ceiling tiles. For high-ceiling areas, the AXIS 210 Network Cameras were wall-mounted. Vandal-resistant AXIS 216FD-V Fixed Dome Network Cameras were installed in locations with hard ceilings, low ceilings and in gymnasiums where their rugged design could withstand the impact of basketballs and other objects.

The primary external camera is the AXIS 211 Fixed Network Camera, equipped with a varifocal lens for a wide range of views. AXIS 225FD Fixed Dome Network Cameras were used in areas with limited mounting heights like walkways. AXIS 233D PTZ Network Cameras gave Deer Park officials the ability to track suspicious behavior in real-time in stadiums, athletic fields, parking lots and driveways.

Gaining Credibility

Working hand-in-hand with local law

enforcement, district staff has demonstrated that the network video surveillance system can be a valuable tool in a crisis. In Active Shooter drills, teams have been able to track and identify a perpetrator in less than one minute. Drills aside, because of the cameras' high resolution, the district has been able to catch vandals on video during break-ins, and identify and charge them with a felony.

The external PTZ cameras also give administrators an important window to the outside environment. "We live along the Houston shipping channel with industry pretty close to our district," Dean says. "Should we have an industrial accident, such as a chemical leak or fire; the cameras help us keep an eye on the situation so that we can respond accordingly."

Because the superintendent and administrators in the central office can view the entire district from their desktops, they can continue monitoring events as they unfold. They also have the freedom to view any campus in the district from any PC that allows access to the network.

While federal privacy regulations bar parents from viewing school video without a subpoena, having the video at hand has helped Dean to mediate complaints. "Parents have a perception of an event based on what their child has told them," Dean says. "I listen to their side of the story but also review the video file of the incident sent to me by the school principal. It gives me more credibility with the parents when they know I've seen an actual recording of the event as it happened. This makes it easier to resolve the issue to their satisfaction."

Expanding the security blanket

In an effort to better ensure food and kitchen staff safety, Deer Park has begun installing network cameras in all its campus kitchens. This will enable the Director of Child Nutrition to monitor kitchen and cafeteria activity from his desktop.

As more campus renovations are started, the district is remodeling school entrances to include locked vestibules. Cameras mounted at those entrances will

Compliance Scorecard

Security Leadership Solutions
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Time to Assess Clery Act Compliance

By Marleah Blades

On August 14, 2008, then-President George W. Bush signed the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), which includes among its wide-ranging mandates several items that directly impact security at U.S. colleges and universities.

The HEOA makes six amendments to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. Under the Clery Act, colleges and universities that participate in federal student aid programs must a) publish annual reports that contain three years of campus crime statistics; b) disclose crimes reported on the campus and nearby areas; and c) keep a log of all crimes reported on campus. The Act is named in memory of Jeanne Clery, a Lehigh University student who was raped and murdered in her dorm room in 1986. Clery's parents discovered after her murder that the university had not told students about 38 violent crimes that had occurred on campus in the previous three years. Clery's parents were a driving force behind the passage of the Act in 1990.

The HEOA amends the Clery Act in the following ways:

- Requires institutions to include in their annual security reports a statement that the institution will "immediately notify the campus community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff."
- Expands required reporting of hate crime statistics to include larceny-theft, simple assault, intimidation and vandalism.
- Requires institutions to disclose whether they have agreements with state and local police for crime investigation.

- Prohibits retaliation against individuals who report neglect in the implementation of any provision of the Act.
- Requires the U.S. Department of Education to report to Congress annually on Clery Act compliance and implementation work.
- Exempts foreign institutions located abroad from Clery Act reporting obligations.

The Department of Education may levy fines for noncompliance up to \$27,500 per violation. Few schools have been fined, but the penalties that have been doled out have been substantial. For example, in 2007 Eastern Michigan University was fined \$357,500 for numerous violations.

As budgets tighten, university safety and security departments may find themselves with limited resources and personnel to maintain the required logs and reports required by Clery. However, local and college newspapers looking for stories could expose potential violations through modest effort. Now is a good time to review the requirements of this Act and assess your institution for compliance.



Marleah Blades is senior editor for the Security Executive Council (SEC). The SEC maintains a large and growing list of laws, regulations, standards and guidelines that impact security (<https://www.securityexecutivecouncil.com/public/lrcv>). Help the Council fill out the list and receive a selected complimentary metric slide from our store.