

Aransas County Independent School District More Secure with ASSA ABLOY Products

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The global leader in
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Aransas County Independent School District has six facilities in Rockport, Texas that serve 3,200 pre-K through high school students. The first of its schools was built in 1935, and over the course of almost 80 years the district has installed and replaced countless locks and exit devices.

With decades of construction and tens of thousands of students, faculty and administrators passing through the doors, it's perhaps not surprising that the school's security system grew to become overly complex and in need of an overhaul.

"The more we talked with ASSA ABLOY and their K-12 Specialist Nick Heath, the more we realized they could provide us with the all-in-one solution we were looking for."

— Norman Spears, Aransas ISD Director of Technology

"Our security system had four or five different brands and many different types of locks," said Preston Adams, Director of Operations for the Aransas County ISD. "It became extremely difficult to keep up with all the keys, and people were always losing them." Another issue was the maintenance required," noted Norman Spears, Aransas ISD Director of Technology.

Administrators knew it was time for a change, especially with two new buildings slated for construction.

Adams and administrators consulted with a number of integrators and manufacturers – including ASSA ABLOY.

Nick Heath, K-12 Specialist for ASSA ABLOY, and his team determined that a good starting point would be to install a SARGENT Harmony® Integrated Wiegand access control lock in Adams' office through the ASSA ABLOY Try Me program. The Harmony was ideal for the trial since it offered keyless prox card entry, eliminating the need for keys and the worry of people losing them and could interface with the school's chosen Electronic Access Control (EAC) system and architecture.

Adams was impressed enough with the lock's functionality and durability that he agreed to go forward with SARGENT locks and exit devices for the two new buildings as well as all retrofit projects. The school also liked the fact that if someone lost their credential, they could instantly and remotely de-authorize the lock and issue the person a new card."

It was a textbook case of a challenge leading to an opportunity. "We wanted the benefits an electronic access control system could provide," Spears pointed out. "We needed locks with more flexibility where we could know who was coming and going. We needed the ability to have doors unlocked at times when we knew there'd be a lot of traffic and locked at other times. We wanted to be able to lock down a facility immediately in the event of an emergency – with our prevalence of mechanical locks this was impossible."



SARGENT Harmony® Integrated Wiegand Access Control Lock

Aransas County Independent School District

Aransas ISD selected the Access It!® Universal access management solution from RS2 Technologies with PoE-compatible EP1501 single-door controllers. “Using PoE-enabled controllers allowed us to eliminate power supplies by running a single Ethernet cable from a PoE injector to the controller, saving costs and reducing installation time,” Spears pointed out. “That made it easy to integrate the locks and exit devices into our buildings.”

The district has installed Harmony Integrated Wiegand locks on the interior doors and 80 Series exit devices on the exterior doors. “The 80 Series devices are much more durable than what we’d been using before with fewer moving parts,” said Spears, “and they require much lower current to operate which gives us additional savings.”

In addition, some of the doors are equipped with the Norton SafeZone® electromechanical door closer with motion sensor. When a door is manually opened, SafeZone senses motion in the doorway and holds the door open. When movement is no longer detected, the door closes normally. This allows one person or a stream of people to travel safely through an opening, and extends the life of the opening by limiting unnecessary cycles.

“Since signing on with ASSA ABLOY, we feel that we have the safest and most secure school facilities in the area.”

– Preston Adams, Director of Operations for the Aransas County ISD

“We did a lot of due diligence to see who had the most durable hardware that would withstand heavy abuse, along with the best electronic access control security systems. ASSA ABLOY came out on top by a large margin because when we looked at our requirements, ASSA ABLOY already had a solution for everything on our list,” said Adams. “Going forward we will also be retrofitting many

of our mechanical locks with SARGENT IN120 WiFi locks, which are fully compatible with our IT system and can be retrofitted and implemented at relatively low cost compared to other options.”



SARGENT 80 Series Narrow Stile Exit Device



SARGENT 80 Series Surface Vertical Rod Exit Device and SARGENT 351 Series Door Closer



In addition to locking technologies from SARGENT, the Aransas School District selected products from other ASSA ABLOY Group companies including

- Hollow metal doors from CECO Door: met the necessary windstorm requirements for the exterior doors and are also found on interior maintenance doors
- Thermally fused wood doors from The Maiman Company: specified for classroom and office areas because they are capable of with withstanding the heavy usage of a school environment and come pre-wired with the necessary cabling to send power to the SARGENT Harmony locks
- McKinney hinges: a “plug and play” wiring system connects the locks to Securitron power supplies.
- Pemko gasketing throughout the school on metal doors and for fire seals
- Rixson electromagnetic door holders at main building doors allow easy access in and out of the building
- Variety of Rockwood accessory hardware including mounting brackets and kick plates

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