



TECH FOR
SAFER SCHOOLS

by Atlas IED

10 Reasons Why School
Administrators Should Consider

**IP Endpoints as Integrated Technology
for Emergency Preparedness**





Every educational facility needs a solid communications network.

It is imperative for the safety of students and staff and keeps daily operations flowing smoothly. PA systems ably supported these needs for years when the level of communications within schools was relatively simple. Today, however, the scope of communications has evolved, requiring a more sophisticated system that supports both audible and visual modes of messaging to effectively deliver a wide range of information—

alarms, routine announcements, safety instructions, reminders, paging, wayfinding, voice lift, audio enhancement, and bells throughout the building, campus, and district. IP endpoints, which include various types of loudspeakers, displays, and other peripherals, satisfy the myriad of communications requirements of schools by effectively and reliably delivering critical information to staff and students in a manner that is understood by everyone.

Here are 10 ways IP endpoints can enhance and expand a school's communications system to serve the evolving needs of school districts:





1 Visual indicators of IP endpoints convey information quickly.

When seconds count, one of the most effective ways to deliver information quickly throughout campus is via LED flashers. The color of the flasher can indicate, immediately, the severity of a life safety situation, as well as notification of daily procedures. In this situation, a green illuminated flasher might cue students to leave their desks for an assembly, while red tells them to evacuate the classroom for a fire drill. Other colors—blue, purple, yellow, and white—can be dispatched by the flasher, as well.

A photograph of two young women in a school hallway. The woman on the left is wearing a floral patterned shirt and denim overalls, smiling as she looks at a smartphone held by the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a light blue polo shirt and a red backpack, also smiling. In the background, other students are visible, and a digital clock on the wall shows 10:24 AM.

2 An IP endpoint with a built-in LCD display delivers more detail than an LED flasher

providing students and staff with clear visual instructions, notifications, and messages about general and emergency events. A display can convey information through a combination of screen colors, symbols, and scrolling and flashing text. This helps minimize confusion and chaos, whether students are evacuating the premise during an emergency or traveling to pick-up points after school. For example, green arrows and text can lead students to the nearest exits. The addition of scrolling text can present daily announcements of after-school activities, as well as instructions during lockdowns and severe weather.



3 IP endpoints with speakers can be used as integrated voice lift and audio enhancement in classrooms.

Voice lift can help reduce voice fatigue for instructors and audio amplification ensures that all students hear the teacher or computer audio clearly and at the same level no matter where in the classroom they are seated. With the ability to drive audio through additional traditional classroom speakers, IP endpoints tie into more than PA and emergency alerts—they fulfill instructional technology requirements.



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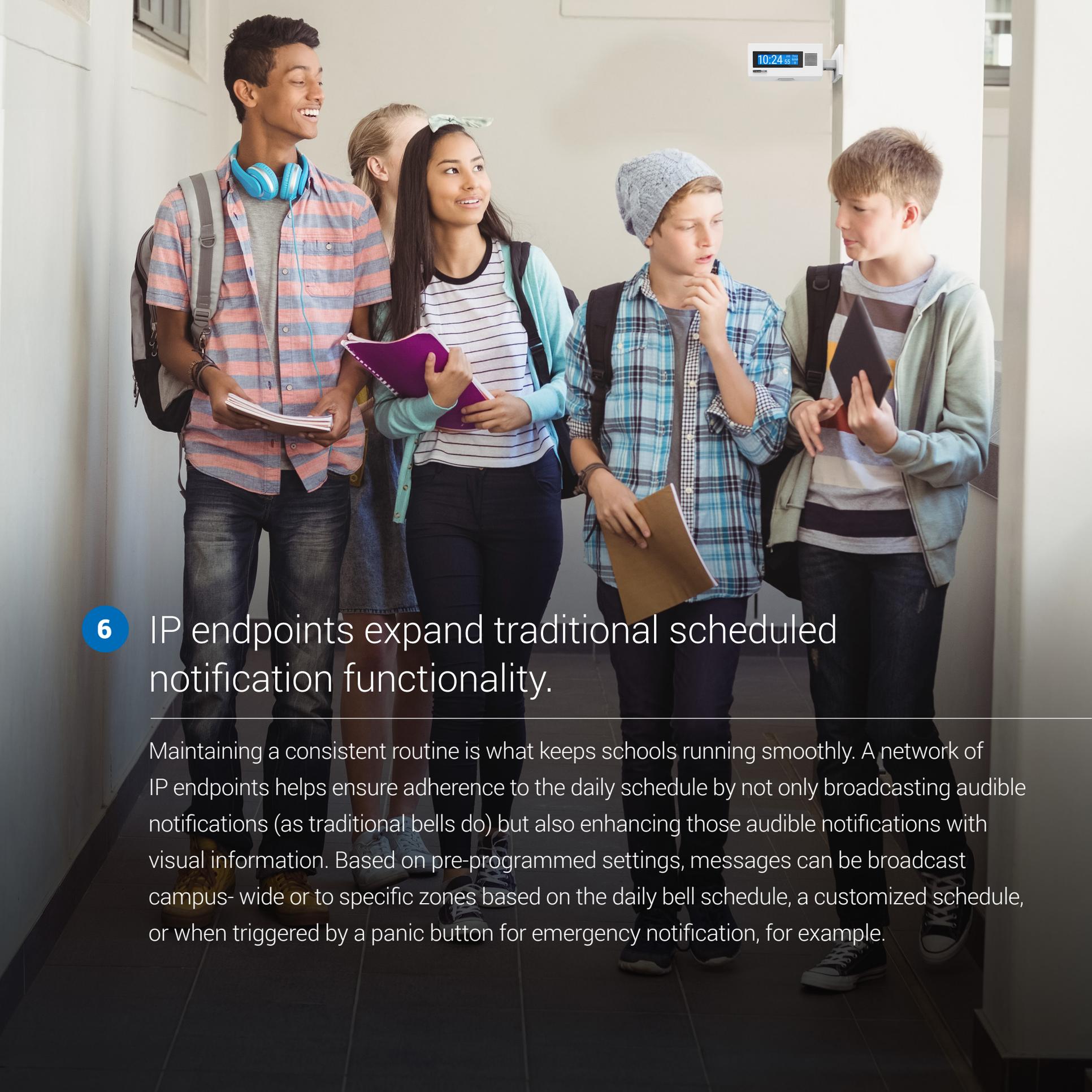
IP endpoints utilizing microphones and speakers enable two-way communication between classrooms and in the central office.

Administrators can relay information about late arrivals of buses, new recess procedures, and impromptu adjustments to schedules, plus alerts of severe weather, intruders, and other critical events, while keeping the line of communication open. Should a teacher need help or medical assistance in the classroom, the microphone of the IP endpoint permits hands free communication with the central office. Additionally, IP endpoints support common school communication requirements such as intercom and paging.



5 IP endpoints enhance coverage, efficiency, and effectiveness of a campus' existing communications networks.

This level of integration enables VoIP telephone handsets to send alerts to IP endpoints, making campus-wide communications seamless, no matter what type of device is employed by the staff or administration. Utilizing an existing network takes advantage of infrastructure that is already available within the building, potentially providing a significant cost savings on labor and materials incurred with typical new public address and emergency communication systems.



10:24 AM

6 IP endpoints expand traditional scheduled notification functionality.

Maintaining a consistent routine is what keeps schools running smoothly. A network of IP endpoints helps ensure adherence to the daily schedule by not only broadcasting audible notifications (as traditional bells do) but also enhancing those audible notifications with visual information. Based on pre-programmed settings, messages can be broadcast campus-wide or to specific zones based on the daily bell schedule, a customized schedule, or when triggered by a panic button for emergency notification, for example.



7 IP endpoints support compliance with ADA regulations.

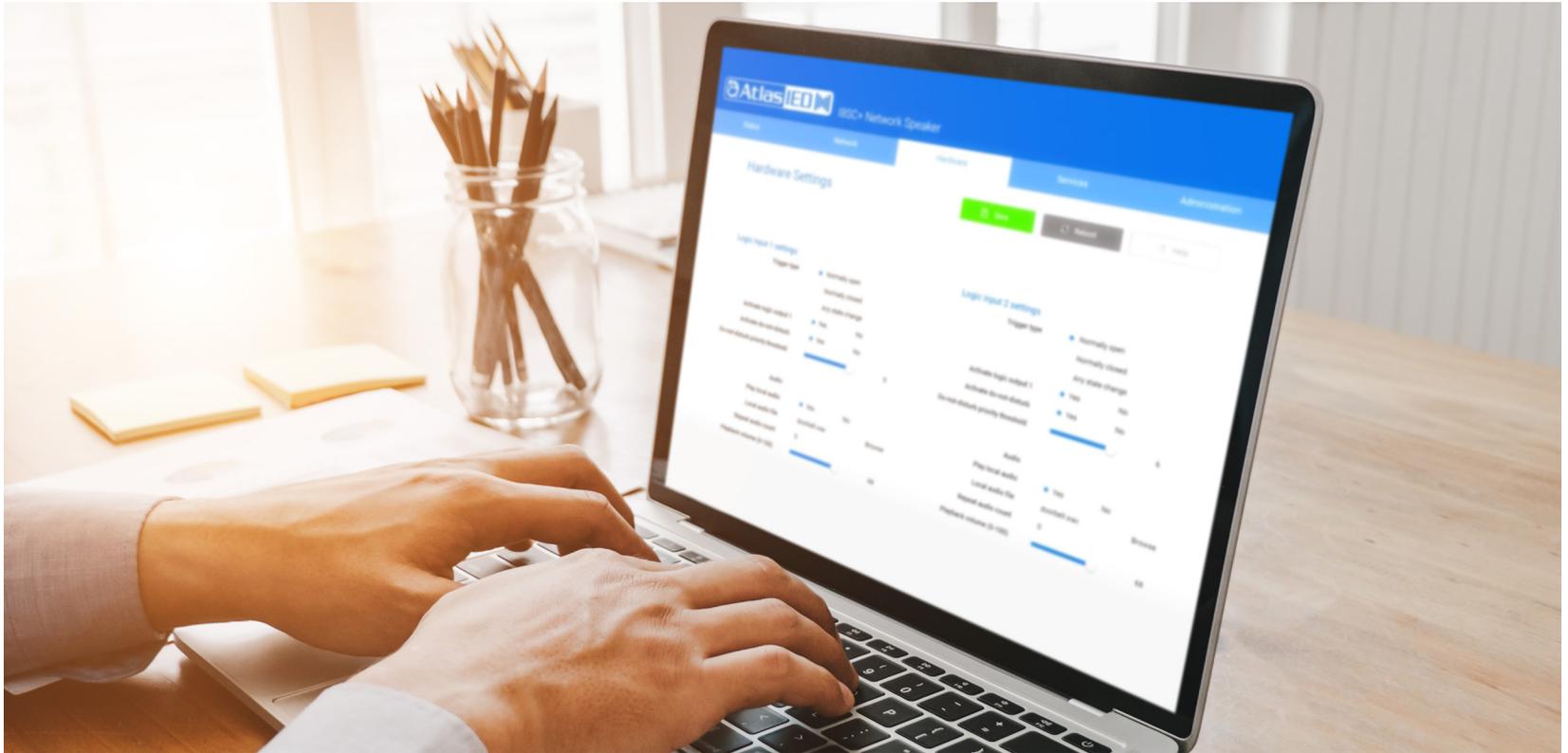
Through visual displays, IP endpoints enable individuals with hearing impairments or who are unable to read to interpret alerts. An illuminated green light on LED flashers, for example, can signify class dismissals, while a red light indicates a fire alarm. Combined with scrolling or flashing text and arrows, IP endpoints provide additional visual cues and wayfinding to ensure comprehension and compliance campus-wide.



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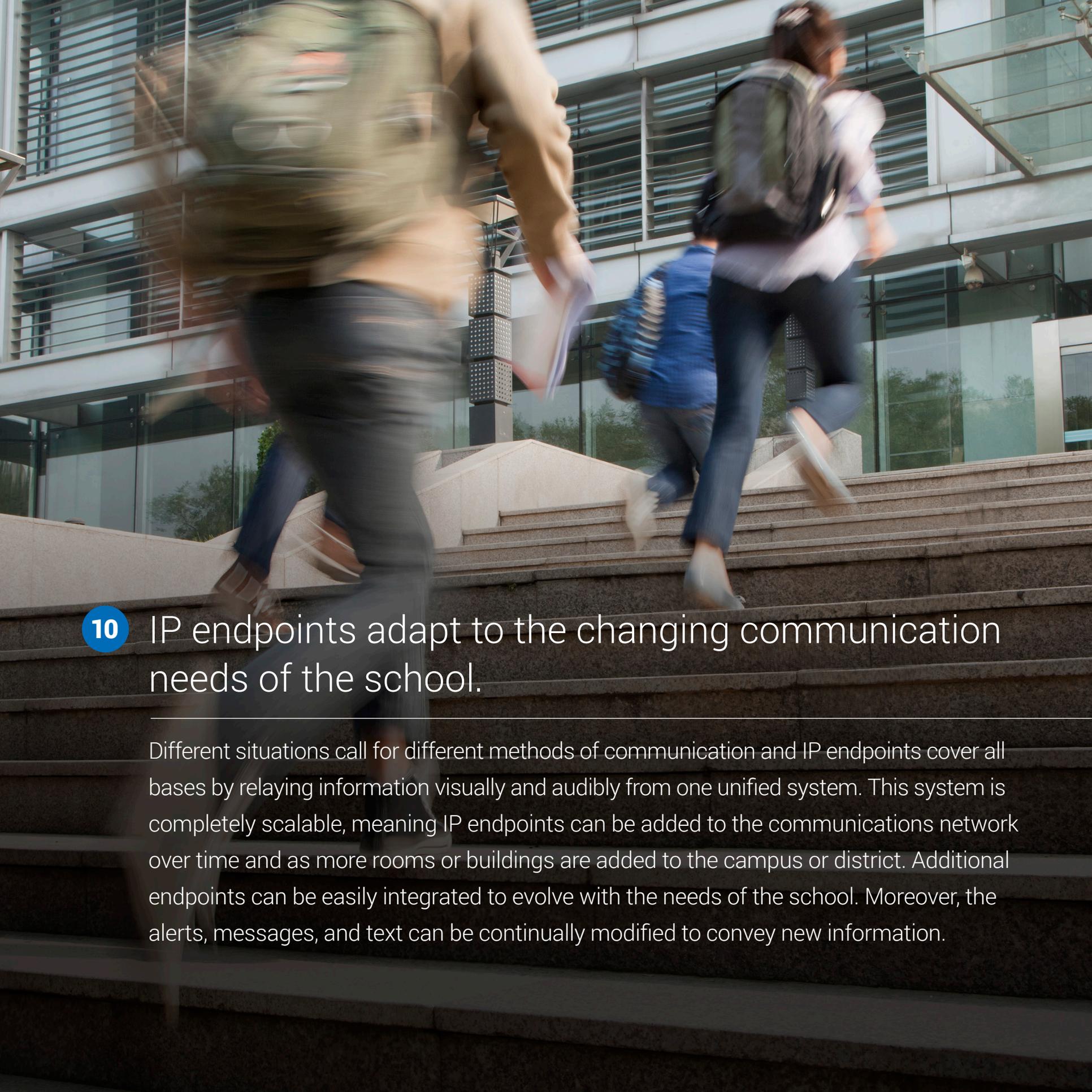
A network of IP endpoints supports cross-campus and district-wide communications.

The reach of IP endpoints doesn't stop at the doors of the building. Both live and pre-recorded messages can be dispatched from any VoIP phone to IP endpoints that convert a digital signal to simple audio in hard-to-reach outdoor areas like playgrounds, parking lots, and sports facilities. Notifications converted in this manner can be heard through existing indoor and outdoor speakers and horns. This streamlines communication dramatically and ensures that everyone, everywhere, receives important notifications, whether it is a reminder of a half-day, recognition of a team's big win, or an emergency alert.



9 The user-interface for IP endpoints is simple.

IP endpoints are designed for ease-of-use. Much of the technology is hidden from the users, allowing for simple training and interfacing with the devices. The technology and automation ensure reliability and consistency while reducing the possibility of human error, especially during high-stress situations.

A blurred photograph of students running up a set of stone stairs in front of a modern building with large glass windows and metal railings. The motion blur conveys a sense of urgency and activity.

10

IP endpoints adapt to the changing communication needs of the school.

Different situations call for different methods of communication and IP endpoints cover all bases by relaying information visually and audibly from one unified system. This system is completely scalable, meaning IP endpoints can be added to the communications network over time and as more rooms or buildings are added to the campus or district. Additional endpoints can be easily integrated to evolve with the needs of the school. Moreover, the alerts, messages, and text can be continually modified to convey new information.



What is an IP Endpoint?

An IP endpoint is any device that lives on the “edge” of a network.

Edge devices commonly have features that encourage engagement by end-users. For example, some IP endpoints, like displays and loudspeakers, present visual and audible information while others, like VoIP phones and communication stations, enable users to initiate and program the delivery of messages over the network.

IP endpoints can be integrated with existing networks, enabling them to seamlessly interface with legacy communication devices.

AtlasIED IPX endpoints provide customization of communication.





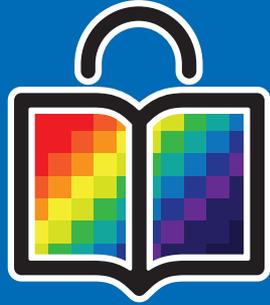
Communication Features Available in AtlasIED's IPX Series of IP Endpoints

What, how, and when information is communicated within a school is always changing. One day, an audible campus-wide broadcast is necessary to inform staff of upcoming parent-teacher conferences, on another day, specific classrooms need to receive visual instructions on evacuation procedures.

The IP endpoints in AtlasIED's IPX Series facilitate various forms of audible and visual notification, so no matter what type of message needs to be dispatched, it is clearly seen, heard, and understood by all.

These IP endpoints are unified under a single network, and managed, programmed, and controlled from a user-friendly interface, making it easy for school administrators and staff to customize how, what, and where information is shared.

IP endpoints offered by AtlasIED include IPX Speakers and IPX Displays, with options available that integrate any combination of microphones, LED flashers, LCD, and speakers.



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