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# ID Card Strategies for Private Schools



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Many private schools around the country face the challenge of building and maintaining campus communities that are safer, smarter, and more efficient. Of course, achieving these goals is critical to delivering outstanding educational outcomes and attracting the best and brightest students. But with rapidly-changing technologies and ever-increasing demands from students, faculty, staff, and parents, it can be difficult to identify and implement the right strategies to give your school an edge.

In this guide, our experts at American Barcode and RFI describe how you can leverage the latest identity card strategies as part of your school's efforts to be a leader in private K-12 education. With affordable new technologies that have emerged over the past two years, ID card solutions play a key role in giving today's students, faculty, staff, and parents the seamless security, connectivity, and efficiency that expect and need.

## Private School Priorities

In working with private schools and other educational institutions throughout the Southwest, a number of top priorities have become a common focus of our technology consulting and implementation.

- Safety and Security
- Quality Educational Outcomes
- Outstanding Student Services
- Convenience and Accessibility
- Efficiency, Connectivity, and Automation
- Cashless and Electronic Transactions
- Resource and Asset Management

In all of these areas, ID card solutions have been playing a pivotal role in meeting the goals of top schools, with many schools establishing or expanding ID card usage and integration while others have upgraded or replaced existing solutions that are not making the grade.

Here are just some of the ways that the latest ID card printers and solutions have proven to deliver highly valuable benefits for K-12 schools:

## ID Cards Overview

<i>Types of Identity Cards</i>	<i>ID Card Usage</i>
<p>Various types of identity cards can be produced with ID card printers, including standard magnetic stripe cards or smart ID cards with embedded and encoded chips.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student ID Cards</li><li>• Faculty and Staff IDs</li><li>• Multi-purpose and Smart-encoded Cards</li><li>• Visitor Badges</li><li>• Wristbands</li></ul>	<p>One of the key benefits of the latest ID card solutions is that a single card can cover a full range of potential uses. With smart-encoded cards and easy-to-use software applications, any card can serve as a multi-purpose resource for identifying and providing access, services, information, and activity tracking for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access Controls and Security</li><li>• Student Attendance and Staff Time</li><li>• Electronic Checkouts and Reservations</li><li>• Cashless Payments and Transactions</li><li>• Visitor Management</li><li>• Emergency Planning</li><li>• Location Tracking and Monitoring</li><li>• Self-service Student Kiosks</li><li>• Student Registration</li><li>• Student Allergies and Special Requirements</li><li>• Emergency Contacts</li><li>• Off-campus Trips and Activities</li><li>• Integration with Wireless Campus</li></ul>

# Strategic Applications of ID Cards

## Campus Safety and Security

Many schools have already implemented ID card solutions that control access to campus facilities and provide verifiable photo identification for students, faculty, and staff. With many potential risks and dangers facing today's schools, controlling access to exterior doors is a fundamental precaution that any school should consider.

But ID cards can also be used to extend access controls to particular classrooms, offices, and restricted areas within your campus, granting access only to selected members of your faculty, staff, or security personnel. And they can be used to screen access to and verify or monitor attendance at extracurricular events.

ID cards can also be used to protect and secure school equipment and resources, such as laptops, tablets, and audio/visual equipment, by requiring ID scanning and tracking for any checkouts or reservations.

Finally, wristbands can also be printed and created for safe off-campus trips and activities, including scanning and monitoring and even documenting and accessing student allergies, special requirements, and emergency contacts.

## Efficiency and Automation

With a single card usable for all purposes, you can create easy-to-use and versatile cards for your students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The potential benefits in efficiency and automation are only limited by the extent to which you implement and integrate ID cards with all of your campus processes, transactions, and services. Here are just a few of the most common applications of cards for efficiency and automation.

Student ID cards enable automated attendance tracking with simple software, which has become a key use for schools that want to streamline their process and eliminate manual faculty and staff labor associated with recording and monitoring attendance. It is also an important tool for schools looking to reduce truancy and address student attendance issues, which can be a factor in securing state funding.

### ***Student ID cards enable automated attendance tracking with simple software...***

Wherever ID cards or wristbands are used, they can be scanned with handheld computers and devices, including smartphones and tablets, making it easier than ever for faculty, staff, or automated equipment to verify identity, process transactions, and deliver important services. Whether IDs are used in your cafeteria, library, school stores, or with vending machines, kiosks, or checkout processes for any other resource, they can save considerable time and lower your budget expenses.

Photo ID cards can also be generated quickly during student registration and can be used to simplify and speed up your future registration and scheduling processes with instantaneous scanning to match students with registration records and schedules.

And ID cards can also be integrated with existing student, faculty, and staff databases, so you can further connect or expand your services and information resources and create a truly comprehensive solution for identification, tracking, and recordkeeping.

## Cashless Payments and Electronic Transactions

Processing payments and transactions electronically is essential to saving time for your staff and delivering seamless, cashless, and hassle-free transactions for students. But many schools find that it also leads to greater revenues due to the removal of barriers and hassles to paying for school meals, vending, or other services.

Today's students have grown up in a mobile and connected world, and they expect to pay for meals, check out books, and process virtually all transactions electronically. Parents are also looking for faster and easier ways to fund student meal accounts and monitor financial activity. Faculty and staff may also need support for transactions such as checking out or borrowing library books and equipment or reserving resources.

ID cards are the ideal way to consolidate all of your payments, checkouts, and reservations through a single card, making it easy to deduct funds from accounts, track and record transactions, and review reports of activity. Using the latest card printers, smart technology, and automated software, your school can deliver an all-in-one card solution that integrates with all of the software applications, scanners, and databases that you use.

All-purpose cards can be used in your cafeteria, library, media center, or school store and at self-service kiosks, vending machines, and even off-campus stores and eateries. Wherever you use ID cards and deploy convenient and scanning and processing solutions, you can ultimately achieve vastly better efficiency throughout your school, reduce manpower needs, and lower your annual costs while delivering great services for your entire campus community.

## Visitor Management

Another key application for ID cards is visitor management, an aspect of campus safety and security that deserves its own focus. Considering the risks of intruders and unauthorized individuals gaining access to your campus, taking a leap forward and implementing a secure visitor badge program is a critical consideration. With fully controllable and trackable visitor badges, including timed badges that expire after a pre-determined time, your school can control access to your facilities and any area of your campus by parents, volunteers, and any other guests.

This not reduces potential disruptions from unscheduled visitors and helps prevent property theft and vandalism, but, more importantly, it reduces the potential for child abductions and tragic incidents of violence at your school.

### ***... implementing a secure visitor badge program is a critical consideration.***

Every school should have a comprehensive visitor management system, and ID cards and new technologies make managing schools visitors and preventing unauthorized intrusions easier and more reliable than ever. With ID cards, simple software, and properly drafted procedures and training, you can deploy a complete system for visitor check-in and authorization, checkout, and recording and monitoring of all visits.

By using smart ID cards and the latest software solutions, you can eliminate manual visitor logs and processes and replace them with automated technology that will help your staff ensure that all visitors are authorized and avoid dangerous and potentially tragic mistakes and oversights.

## Upgrading and Replacing Existing Card Solutions

Your school may already have ID cards and solutions in place, at least for limited applications and for students, faculty, and staff. But many schools struggle with inefficient and poorly performing ID card printers, expensive repairs and service, slow or unreliable software applications, and solutions that simply don't make the grade.

Thankfully, with advances in ID card technology and printing, it is more affordable than ever for your school to upgrade existing equipment and systems to provide a more seamless and efficient ID card experience for everyone on your campus. And there are many opportunities to extend your current integration of ID cards and expand their usage to make your school truly the safest, smartest, and most efficient campus that it can be.

# A Wireless Campus Strategy

To truly maximize the potential of ID cards, your school can integrate smart ID cards as part of a comprehensive wireless campus strategy.

More than ever, private schools must leverage the power of the Internet to enrich the learning experiences of today's students. Students expect 'anywhere, anytime' access to the information they need, on any device, including laptops, smartphones, and tablets. Teachers also need reliable, high-speed Internet access to administer online testing, deliver streaming multimedia content, and use learning management systems (LMS) to share assignments, grades, and study guides. Campus safety needs are also driving demands for wireless connectivity for video surveillance, emergency response, and crisis notification systems.

But these increasing demands and needs for campus connectivity, mobility, and service reliability have greatly exceeded the capabilities of many school networks. Network slowdowns, bottlenecks, and service outages have become all too common. Even for schools that are already achieving satisfactory performance, the capacity to handle growing and future needs can be a major question.

Worst of all, some schools have invested in upgrades or installations of new wireless networks, only to learn the hard way that the wrong choices and technology can leave them with minimal improvement. But, under budget pressures, some schools may feel that a truly high-performance and reliable network is not within their means.

Thankfully, just as advancements in ID card technologies and solutions have enabled affordable yet vast improvements in campus safety, connectivity, and efficiency, the latest wireless networking innovations now make it possible to bring the power of enterprise-class business wireless to your private school. With record-setting performance and capacity and intelligent wireless access points that are self-optimizing and self-healing, your school can install and deploy a wireless network designed to handle the highest possible demand, including streaming video and multimedia educational resources.

***... innovations now make it possible to bring the power of enterprise-class business wireless to your private school.***

Importantly, with a zero-touch installation and configuration process and an easy-to-use graphical user interface, your network can be set up with minimal cost and effort, with no specialized knowledge or skills required. The use of intelligent access points ensures that devices and traffic are always configured and routed on the network for the best possible performance, the this next-generation technology eliminates the need for buying and installing expensive hardware controllers to manage the network.

As an additional benefit, the latest wireless networking also provides complete security against unauthorized access with multi-layered protection, data encryption and user authentication, and the ability to partition your network resources and grant separate levels of access for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Combined with smart ID cards and RFID technology for tracking and asset management, wireless networking can complete an end-to-end strategy for achieving a top-class wireless campus. From outstanding campus security and student services to smart technology and high-performance WiFi, you can create and maintain a wireless campus community that will put your school at the head of the class in private education.

# How to Get Started: Free Consultation

At AB&R (American Barcode and RFID), we've been serving schools and businesses for 35 years, delivering the latest technology solutions and insights to meet ever-growing needs for greater security, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. In partnership with Zebra, a world leader in card printing, RFID tracking, and wireless networking solutions, we would like to offer you free expert consultation to help you assess your school's technology needs and evaluate your best options. We would love to help you make your campus community safer, smarter, and more efficient.

**Contact us today to schedule a call or set up an appointment at your earliest convenience.**

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