



**Soft Target Engineering
to Neutralize the
Threat Reality**

SENTRY School Security Case Study

SOFT TARGET ENGINEERING TO NEUTRALIZE THE THREAT REALITY (SENTRY)

A DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) CENTER OF EXCELLENCE LED BY NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Our Goal

By working directly with schools, SENTRY seeks to expand our understanding of school security. Through this knowledge, the center will be able to develop effective engineered solutions and technologies to prevent, detect, and mitigate violent threats.

About SENTRY

SENTRY has been funded by the DHS Directorate of Science and Technology to address the challenges of protecting soft targets and crowded places, such as schools, stadiums, places of worship, and surface transportation infrastructure by developing engineered security solutions.

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Working to Build Safe School Environments

Envisioning what a safe, learning-conducive environment looks like in the school space is what drives our School Security Case Study. The program seeks to:

- Understand the current school security landscape and needs.
- Work directly with stakeholders to develop an informed roadmap for SENTRY research in the school security space.
- Perform market analyses on current tools, technologies, and methods used in school security.
- Inform and train those responsible for school security on best practices and effective security techniques.

Led and Backed by Expertise

SENTRY's work in this area is being driven by the expertise inherent in a diverse team of SENTRY researchers, technologists, government agencies, and school security practitioners with decades of experience and knowledge specific to school safety and security needs.

Several U.S. school districts and DHS components are supporting SENTRY in this effort. Partnering with school security stakeholders throughout the development process assures that the center develops useful and valuable tools and technologies for schools. Schools and DHS Components have participated in our case study events and have been generous in sharing relevant resources to facilitate our work.

By hosting school site visits, observations of drills, and tabletop exercises, our school partners have provided SENTRY with critical school security information and understanding. We look forward to our continued engagement with our school and government partners as we advance school-specific Virtual Sentry Framework solutions.



Science and Technology

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Our Case Study Events

SENTRY School Security Listening Session

To launch our case study, SENTRY hosted a 3-hour School Security Listening Session to facilitate open discussion between SENTRY researchers and five school security stakeholders. Topics included discussions of current and needed technologies, threat assessments, safety plans, access, training, and situational awareness. Following the event, key takeaways from the session were captured in an internal report that will be utilized to inform SENTRY's work.

Future of School Security Working Meeting

Building on the information gathered from the School Security Listening Session, SENTRY hosted the Future of School Security Meeting in collaboration with Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL). The meeting was an invitation-only moderated collaboration that allowed for an open exchange of ideas on the art of the possibilities concerning the future of school security. External participants were specifically selected based on their experience and expertise, with stakeholder representation from SENTRY researchers, first responders, school security personnel, teachers, school administrators, psychologists/social workers, technologists, DHS components, parents, and students. The outputs from this event were compiled into a final report detailing recommendations on technologies, requirements, and priorities for SENTRY's efforts in the school security space.

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Partnerships & Alliances

Industry Partners

Leaders and experts in their fields, who provide guidance and introduce cutting-edge technology to augment SENTRY research and expedite the transition of solutions. *Scan for a complete list of SENTRY Industry Partners.*



Academic Partners

A diverse network of students and faculty, who engage with ongoing research, expand knowledge and scope, and contribute to the center's success. *Scan for a complete list of SENTRY Partner Institutions.*



School Security Focused Alliances

CISA School Safety Task Force
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory