

CUSTOMER STORY

Optimizing Emergency Alerting for Students with Disabilities at CCJL

INDUSTRY

Education

LOCATION

Ontario, Canada

The Consortium Centre Jules-Léger (CCJL) is a provincial institution that offers specialized education to students with severe learning disabilities and students who are blind, deaf, or deafblind. CCJL also has employees who are deaf or hard of hearing and blind or with low vision.

While adapting learning programs for unique student needs is CCJL's priority, adapting the safety and security protocols of its facilities is also essential. With two specialized schools and a lodging program, CCJL must implement multiple methods of communication to ensure effective emergency alerting day and night.

Challenges with Old Technology

Ensuring emergency alerts reached all students was difficult due to legacy technology. Problems CCJL dealt with included:

1 ACCESSIBILITY
Staff were unable to signal and alert students of various types of emergencies, such as lockdowns, evacuations, or tornadoes, in a way that streamlined alerts in real-time and met all student communication needs.

2 MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE
The previous system was installed over 15 years ago, which consisted of mounted TV screens that would display alerts. These devices used regular cable wiring which is dated, making it difficult to repair and upgrade devices.

3 SCALABILITY
The old system was made to perform one thing and one thing only. Being unable to integrate with other devices and technology prevented CCJL from adopting new practices to further optimize its alerting system.

Algo Provided Modern, Customizable Solutions

With many student needs to account for, CCJL needed a solution that was very accommodating for communication accessibility. The key features required for an effective safety and security alerting system included:

Feature	Problems Solved
Audible emergency alerting	An essential method of communication for visually-impaired students who rely on their hearing to receive important messages.
Visual emergency alerting	An essential method of communication for hard of hearing students who rely on their vision to receive information.
Multiple signals from a single device	One system or device that can signal multiple emergencies easily helps simplify security management and make training and accessibility for staff streamlined.
Synchronization of all audio and visual alerts	All students must receive emergency alerts at the same time to ensure everyone's safety no matter where they are or the disabilities they may have.

Algo devices meet the needs of CCJL's staff and students

Algo products were identified by Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO), the school board that CCJL works with for IT and technology, as the best devices for CCJL's needs. As a large school board in the region, CEPEO is also responsible for CCJL's emergency notification and lockdown broadcast systems.

Devices



8410 IP Display Speaker



8420 IP Dual-Sided Display Speaker



8138 IP Color Visual Alerter

ALGO



Wherever the students and staff are, we know we are 100% efficient at alerting.

CAROLINE PORTELANCE
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT), CCJL

Using Algo Products at CCJL

After a quick deployment, CCJL soon started using Algo products for emergency drills. With over 30 8410 IP Display Speakers and 8420 IP Dual-Sided Display Speakers placed in rooms and hallways, and over 90 8138 IP Color Visual Alerters throughout all parts of the schools and lodging, CCJL could test how effective the new products were.

CCJL does 26 drills a year – 16 fire drills and 10 for all other evacuation drills which Algo products are used exclusively for. Because CCJL also has student lodging, these drills can take place in the morning, afternoon, or night. The goal of these drills is to ensure all staff and students evacuate the building in three minutes or less.

With Algo products, CCJL has been able to achieve their 3 minutes or less evacuation goal consistently.



A New Level of Sophistication

The level of sophistication with CCJL's emergency system was even noticed by the police officers who joined for a lockdown practice. The combination of Algo display speakers and visual alerters was technology they had not seen elsewhere, and they were impressed by the level of preparedness implemented.

Overall, being able to rely on Algo products for emergency scenarios, CCJL can focus on their main goal: supporting students in the development of their intellectual, linguistic, cultural, spiritual, social, and emotional potential.

90+

Visual alerters
deployed throughout
the school and lodging

30+

Display speakers
deployed throughout
the school and lodging

100%

Efficiency in
emergency alerting
and evacuation

Algo has been one of the most responsive partners that we've ever had. Our concerns and ideas have been taken very seriously. We are very happy with the timeliness of their responses and the constant contact we have had with all levels and departments within the Algo organization.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS PARENT
BUILDING MANAGER, CCJL

Contact Algo to learn more.