



Safe Connected Buildings

SCHOOL SAFETY SOLUTIONS



A MESSAGE FROM THE SAFER BUILDINGS COALITION

We of the Safer Buildings Coalition mourn the tragic loss of life resulting from mass-casualty events, especially in our schools. While it is the role of many to find every solution that could make our schools safer, it is the role of the Safer Buildings Coalition and the telecommunications industry to examine whether poor wireless communications may have been a factor in such incidents, and how we might work to improve communication problems wherever possible.

We've studied the after-action reports for school mass-casualty events all the way back to Columbine in 1999 and as recently as Uvalde, Texas in 2022. These reports consistently identify poor public safety communications as a critical area of failure and an opportunity for improvement, calling for better in-building wireless communications (both public safety radio and cellular services). Many such reports can be found on the website of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The Reynolds High School Active Shooter Response analysis report (2014) states the following: "The radio reception in the school buildings was poor because the building was not equipped with repeaters," and "Consider equipping the school with repeaters so that radios work throughout the various school buildings..."

Thank you for lending your valuable time in reading this important booklet. We hope it inspires you to participate in the solutions offered to make our schools safer.

Gratefully,

John Foley
Managing Director, Safer Buildings Coalition
saferbuildings.org





EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ARE CRITICAL TO THE SAFETY OF YOUR SCHOOL



51% of 911 calls take place on a cell phone inside a building¹



65% of emergency responders have experienced a communication failure inside a building²



Saving 1 minute in emergency responses would **save 10,000 lives** per year³



Mass notification via text is a critical emergency communications tool

EVERYONE EXPECTS TO BE CONNECTED, EVERYONE NEEDS TO FEEL SAFE.

A safe schools allows for:

- Anyone, with any carrier, to dial 911 from their cell phone
- First responder communications
- Mass notification texts to be received in a timely manner

GRAYBAR SERVICES MAKE IT EASY

We can help you plan, implement and deploy a public safety solution for your school

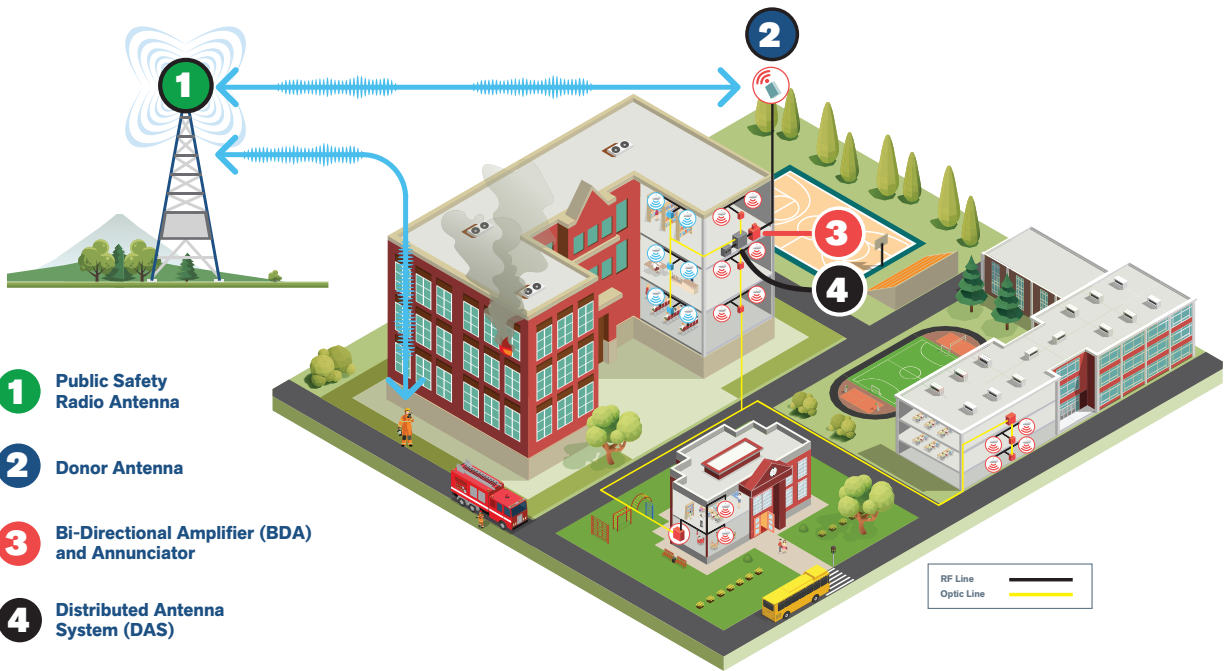
- Financing
- OMNIA Partners, Public Sector Contract
- Ecosystem of integrators, contractors, OEMs

¹ docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-14-13A1.pdf

² zinwave.com/das-solution-blog/trends-show-challenges-of-in-building-cellular-coverage-for-first-responders

³ docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-14-13A1.pdf





- 1** Public Safety Radio Antenna
- 2** Donor Antenna
- 3** Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) and Annunciator
- 4** Distributed Antenna System (DAS)

PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO (ERCES) AND CELLULAR DAS/SIGNAL BOOSTERS

In the event of an incident such as a medical emergency, natural disaster, fire or security threat, in-building wireless systems ensure reliable communication among first responders, students, faculty and staff. They enable 911 calls, panic button systems, mass notifications, text alerts, voice calls, radio communications, location services, evacuation applications and broadband data sessions in order to enable situational awareness and disseminate information quickly to inform everyone about the necessary actions to take. Building codes and local legislation may require a system, but more importantly they are a safety and security responsibility. They are not just a convenience; they are a critical component of a comprehensive safety plan.

The FCC estimates that as many as 10,000 lives could be saved in the US each year by reducing 911 response time by 60 seconds.¹

¹ docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-14-13A1.pdf

ADRF

ADRF's products have been used for almost two decades improving critical communications systems for first responders and K-12 schools nationwide, and meet the need for complete, clear, reliable coverage throughout campuses, including classrooms, underground areas and parking structures.

ADRF's code-compliant portfolio of innovative Public Safety DAS and Repeaters are proven solutions to make buildings safer for first responders and deliver mission critical wireless service. ADRF and Graybar can help you build a seamless emergency communication solution best suited for your school.



ANDREW

Campus connections are expanding, and introducing innovative in-building 5G solutions can significantly enhance education's accessibility and safety. Andrew, a leading provider of in-building wireless solutions, offers a range of solutions to enable reliable and efficient wireless connectivity within buildings. Native 5G smartphone connectivity, a key component of in-building wireless, enables high-speed communications for education while giving students 24/7 access to emergency services.



AIRSPAN

In today's fast-paced world, ensuring the safety and well-being of students and faculty is a top priority for every college and university. Airspan's family of in-building cellular products supports the needs of campuses large and small, providing reliable coverage for classroom buildings, residence halls and stadiums. With Airspan's proven expertise in designing and supporting robust, future-ready networks, we can help you build for today and plan for tomorrow.



SURECALL

School buildings that feature energy-efficient windows, cement walls, metal roofs and other radiant barriers are ideal for reducing the energy needs of the building, but are also notorious for blocking cell signals from the nearby towers. SureCall cell phone signal boosters help by bringing the existing outside signal indoors to provide complete or partial in-building 5G/4G LTE coverage.

SureCall offers high-performance solutions for signal coverage inside large buildings with a variety of antenna configurations that provide the flexibility to meet the needs of any building or floorplan. SureCall signal boosters install quickly and economically offering best-in-class RF performance to improve 5G/4G voice, text and data speeds for all North American carriers and devices, enabling 911 calls, texts, and data communications.



WESTELL

During an emergency, it is critical that emergency responders can send and receive communications from inside to outside and from outside to inside of school buildings via 2-way radios. Westell's bi-directional amplifier (BDAs) systems help first responders receive radio signals, amplify and distribute them throughout and within the school – allowing them to coordinate and respond much more effectively.



WILSON CONNECTIVITY

Wilson Connectivity provides schools with strong connectivity via Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) and signal boosters that receive, amplify and redistribute existing cellular and radio signals, including critical emergency communication.

For over 30 years, Wilson Connectivity has been developing adaptable connectivity that powers future readiness, resulting in 180+ patents. Let's empower your students with the safety and learning advantages only robust connectivity can bring.



ACCESS CONTROL

Access control systems manage and monitor entry to school buildings and restricted areas within. These systems often use keycards, biometric scans or PIN codes to ensure that only authorized personnel can enter. In schools, they prevent unauthorized access, reduce the risk of intruders and enhance overall security by controlling who can enter and leave the premises.

ASSA ABLOY - ALARM CONTROLS

From the front desk to individual classrooms, staff and students depend on secure access control to protect everyday activities and in emergencies. ASSA ABLOY's Alarm Controls offer a suite of customizable push buttons, locks, monitoring stations and accessories to enhance any new or existing access control system.



Learn how Alarm Controls can provide affordable, scalable, custom solutions for your K-12 needs. It's time to get new door hardware in, so your campus is ready when students return.

HID GLOBAL

Today's student populations were born digital. Their mobile phones are an obvious extension of their existence. Tapping into these devices and mobile wallet functionality is a smart, convenient and secure method for upgrading on-campus access and user authentication and verification.



PAXTON

Education facilities have a responsibility to ensure the safety of employees and students, as well as protecting property and equipment from theft or damage. Paxton's flexibility, automation and prevention provides a simple, user-friendly solution that offers benefits beyond just securing doors.



SMART EVACUATION AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

Deploying lots of safety and security technology seems like a good idea, but making it seamlessly integrated to ensure it helps rather than confuses is critical. Software which manages these multiple technologies helps ensure a rapid and effective response.

In crisis situations, immediate and clear communication saves lives. Our system delivers critical alerts across multiple channels simultaneously—mobile devices, displays, intercoms, and desktops—ensuring everyone receives vital information without delay. This unified approach eliminates confusion, reduces response time, and transforms disconnected safety tools into a cohesive lifesaving network.

AQSACOM

Corridor, designed by AQSACOM, offers a Smart Evacuation solution fully compliant with Alyssa's Law and Next Generation 911 (NG911) standards. Designed to save lives and decrease both mental and physical injuries, this safety solution significantly minimizes the time students and faculty are exposed to danger during crises by enabling rapid and highly effective emergency responses.

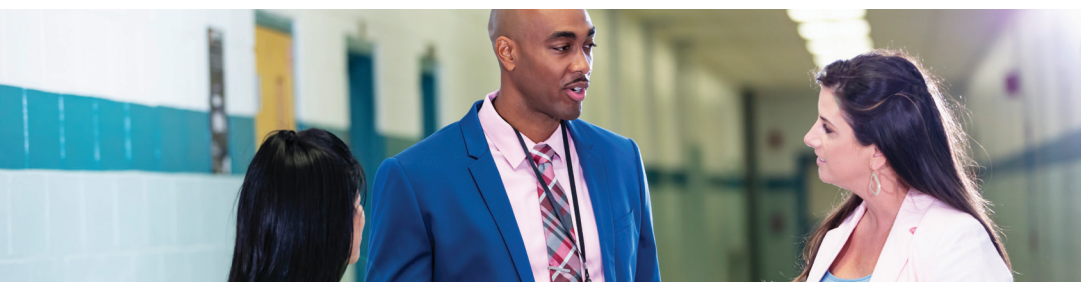
Corridor seamlessly integrates real-time data from an array of safety devices, including mobile phones, panic buttons, fire alarms and surveillance and monitoring systems. Recognizing that time is crucial in emergencies, Corridor collaborates with law enforcement, campus police, emergency medical teams and other essential responders to perform collaborative safety interventions. This efficient collaboration, combined with the cutting-edge solution, saves precious minutes and considerably improves everyone's safety.



VALCOM

In a crisis, clear and timely communication can save lives. Valcom provides integrated communication systems that support schools in achieving safer learning environments through rapid, campus-wide alerting. From daily announcements to emergency lockdowns, Valcom's technology ensures every message is delivered where it matters—across classrooms, common areas, and even outdoor spaces.

Valcom's IP-based communication solutions are designed to work seamlessly with existing infrastructure. These systems integrate voice paging, visual messaging, and emergency notifications into a unified platform that reduces response time and confusion. By collaborating with leading safety partners and third-party systems—such as access control, video surveillance, and panic alert solutions—Valcom empowers schools to act quickly and effectively. This unified approach strengthens coordination with first responders, improves situational awareness, and helps keep students and staff safe.



VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Video surveillance systems consist of cameras and monitoring equipment to observe and record activities within and around school buildings. These systems help deter criminal activities, monitor student behavior and provide valuable footage in the event of an incident. In the educational context, they enhance security by enabling real-time monitoring and providing evidence for investigations.

HANWHA VISION

Hanwha Vision meets the unique security challenges facing schools with smart, secure and scalable surveillance solutions to help educational institutions protect their people and their assets. Hanwha Vision's education solutions focuses on 4K resolution, advanced video analytics and advanced multi-sensor technology.



MILESTONE SYSTEMS

Educators, administrators and security staff can better protect people and property with a customized video solution driven by Milestone's video management software. This easy to deploy, user-friendly technology enables you to not only respond swiftly to incidents such as theft, vandalism, bullying or violence, but also anticipate and in some cases, prevent them.



POWER, BACKUP AND SURGE PROTECTION

Backup power systems, such as generators and uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), provide essential electricity during power outages. In educational institutions, they ensure that critical systems, including security systems, lighting and communication networks, remain operational. This is crucial during emergencies to maintain safety, avoid disruptions in learning and support evacuation processes if necessary.

ALTRONIX

Like a good education, advanced networked surveillance, access and security systems require a great foundation to build on. Altronix's new innovative power and transmission solutions deliver a better, smarter and more resilient surveillance, access control and security system foundation that can make education facilities safer and more conducive to learning.



DITEK NETWORKS

K-12 school systems depend on their fire safety systems to help keep children, staff and visitors safe. Surge protection solutions are available that can protect every entry point from electrical surges that can damage these systems and decrease their reliability and useful lives. With a simple installation process and very modest cost, including Ditek Networks protections with new systems and adding them to existing unprotected systems should be an easy decision for the leadership in every school district.



TRIPP LITE - EATON

To help you maintain your educational institution's continuity and prevent downtime, Tripp Lite offers a comprehensive portfolio of backup power and distribution equipment, protecting you from a host of threats, including power outages, surges and lightning strikes. Eaton also provides a suite of power management products to enable you to monitor and control your power infrastructure.



VERTIV

The digital transformation we will see in the next decade, including the rise of 5G, will take place mainly at the edge of the network. To create and maintain strong edge computing, solid IT infrastructure needs to be rapidly deployed in remote locations as efficiently as possible. Anticipate this trend sustainably with Vertiv's integrated solutions, including prefabricated rack, row, aisle and modular data centers, built in flexible designs based on proven configurations. We're here to help you normalize design and harmonize systems across all of your edge sites (locally, regionally and globally) to allow for easier design, implementation, management and replication.





BACKUP INTERNET ACCESS

Internet access can quickly become overwhelmed in an emergency. Safety systems such as surveillance, access controls, emergency calling, panic alarms, mass notification systems and voice and data communications must remain online with diverse access.

DEJERO

First responders, school administration and staff responsible for event or crisis response must always have uninterrupted access to their emergency response systems. Ensure first responders can communicate with students and faculty with a diverse, resilient, blended backhaul connection you can rely on in an emergency. Dejero Smart Blending Technology™ simultaneously blends multiple internet connections – including FirstNet® and Verizon Frontline – to deliver the connection diversity, redundancy and bandwidth required in emergency situations.

Dejero

Three things you need to know about Dejero

- 1**  One connection is never enough
- 2**  Dejero blends multiple wireless and wired IP connections using *Smart Blending Technology* to create a network of networks
- 3**  Reliable connectivity anywhere

SAFETY SENSORS AND EMERGENCY DETECTION

Emergency panic buttons are devices placed strategically throughout school buildings, allowing individuals to quickly alert security personnel or local authorities in case of an emergency. In some states, panic buttons are required by law.²

Vape sensors detect the presence of e-cigarette vapor and other airborne substances and are typically installed in areas where vaping is likely to occur. In schools, these sensors help in enforcing anti-vaping policies, promoting a healthy environment and reducing the prevalence of vaping among students.

Emergency notification phones are specialized communication devices that provide a direct line to emergency services or internal security teams. These phones are often placed in strategic locations and facilitate quick communication during emergencies, allowing staff and students to report incidents and seek assistance promptly.

² makeourschoolssafe.org/alyssas-law/

BOSCH SECURITY

Detecting gunshots in live systems helps school security and police to respond quickly and appropriately to active shooters. Bosch Security's Intelligent Analytics Gunshot Detector accurately detects specific types of firearms, such as handguns and rifles, indoors and outdoors while ignoring false positives, like slamming car doors or banging carts. The Gunshot Detector can reliably detect over 15 types of calibers up to a 75ft (22.86m) radius.



TALKAPHONE

Talkaphone's blue light phones, area of refuge and related voice-based communication solutions equip people to immediately reach first responders from all the places where they commute or gather to work, play and learn. Purpose-built for the rigors of real-world applications, Talkaphone's versatile solutions draw on decades of product development, manufacturing expertise and steadfast industry partnerships.



HALO

HALO Smart Sensors provide comprehensive awareness of air quality and security, offering peace of mind for facility managers and occupants. Its advanced smoke detector technology identifies vaping and THC use, maintaining a clean environment, while protecting privacy areas without cameras or audio recording, making it ideal for restrooms and changing rooms. Continuously tracking CO2, particulates, VOCs, and more, HALO ensures optimal air quality and occupant comfort. Seamlessly integrating into existing security systems, its user-friendly design and powerful API deliver a unified security experience. In schools, HALO helps maintain a safe and healthy environment by detecting vaping and THC use, monitoring air quality, and providing real-time alerts for security events, enhancing overall safety and privacy.



VIKING ELECTRONICS

It's important for elementary, middle, and high schools to stay aware of pending state and federal legislation related to Alyssa's Law. By working with knowledgeable alarm and telephone installers, schools can avoid the hassle of surprise legislative changes and gain more control over selecting the best emergency communication systems for their needs. Viking's emergency phones, panic buttons, and mass notification products support compliance and can improve law enforcement response times, helping to keep students and staff safe.



RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Push-to-talk radio instant voice communications provide a valuable method of daily and emergency communications for your school. They can be used on campus and remotely for field trips or events.

MOTOROLA

Motorola is the clear leader in radio communications and can help you create a safe environment for students and staff.



NOTHING IS FASTER THAN PUSH-TO-TALK

- Instant staff communication and emergency alerts
- Manage after-school activities, drop-off/pick-up lines and bus loading/unloading situations
- Faster response to control situations

YOU CAN COUNT ON GRAYBAR TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES NEEDED TO HELP KEEP YOUR PROJECT ON TIME AND ON BUDGET.

PRODUCT KITTING AND WIRE CUTTING

Graybar has a wide range of innovative kitting and wire cutting services. We can help develop special packaging for a few items, or kit, crate and ship large components (built-to-stock or to-order).

MATERIAL STAGING

Whether in one of Graybar's 290 locations or a custom warehouse at your site, we have the ability to store stock or non-stock material for delivery to you at a specified date and time. This gives you the comfort that you have readily available inventory, prevents delays and can reduce costs.

JOB TRAILERS

Graybar offers the convenience of Mobile Mini, Inc. portable storage units and office trailers as part of its jobsite inventory management solutions.

GRAYBAR SMARTSTOCK®

An inventory management system that uses best-in-class technology to manage all of your jobsite materials. It includes automated replenishment, in-depth reporting capabilities and adjustable material levels to help create a more streamlined process that can save you time and costs.

TRUCKSTOCK

A point-of-use inventory management system using fleet vehicles to provide secure and immediate access to the materials you need, when you need them. Includes automated replenishment, in-depth reporting capabilities with exclusive user-defined fields, and cycle counts.

GRAYBAR FINANCIAL SERVICES®

Lease financing options, working capital loans and Wireless as a Service (WaaS).

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Benchmark signal testing, design, commissioning, monitoring and reports.

Want to learn more about School Safety Solutions at Graybar?

Contact your Graybar representative today!



info.graybar.com/school-safety/

LEARN MORE ABOUT EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAMS

NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

FEMA is offering a total of \$274.5 million in Nonprofit Security Grant Program¹ (NSGP) funds for fiscal 2024, which runs through Sept. 30. Available funds are split evenly between locations in or out of a federally recognized high-risk urban area security initiative, or UASI. It is only available to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofits and demonstrating that you are at risk for an attack.

Grants from the NSGP are intended for “target hardening and other physical security enhancements and activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk” of attacks from terrorist organizations or extremists. Under NSGP, nonprofits are considered sub-applicants, meaning they must apply to their State Administrative Agency, which receives and distributes the funding. The full list of SAAs is here²; each has its own deadline for applying.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Also administered by FEMA, the Homeland Security Grant Program³ offers \$927 million in available funds to prevent terrorist attacks and other hazards. While this grant is targeted primarily toward state, local, tribal and territorial governments, it's also open to nonprofits. This program also follows the model of SAA as only entities that can apply and distribute funds.

TARGETED VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM PREVENTION GRANTS

Offered by the Department of Homeland Security, the TVTP grants are open to nonprofits and higher education institutions for projects to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. Awards range from \$50,000 to \$1.5 million. A full list of applicant resources is available here⁴.

STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Offered by the Department of Justice, the STOP School Violence Program⁵ “is designed to improve school safety by providing students, teachers and staff with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and prevent acts of violence,” including technology solutions. The grant program includes a category open to nonprofits, Native American tribal governments, private colleges and K-12 schools, and independent school districts. Grants awards go up to \$1 million, including no-cost training and technical assistance.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The SVPP grants⁶ are offered by the Justice Department’s Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and were created as part of the Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018. Grants are capped at \$500,000 per award, with a local 25% cash match required. Funding is made available to law enforcement agencies, units of local government, including school districts, and public government agencies.

SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

SchoolSafety.gov offers a grant finder tool⁷ for safety projects in K-12 schools. Take a quiz⁸ to view a list of specific grants or explore the grants library⁹.

¹ fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security#funding-totals

² fema.gov/grants/preparedness/about/state-administrative-agency-contacts?id=6363

³ fema.gov/grants/preparedness/homeland-security/hy-24-fact-sheet

⁴ dhs.gov/targeted-violence-and-terrorism-prevention-grant-program-applicant-resources

⁵ bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2024-172090

⁶ cops.usdoj.gov/svpp

⁷ schoolsafety.gov/grants-finder-tool

⁸ schoolsafety.gov/grants-finder-tool#block-grants-finder-quiz

⁹ schoolsafety.gov/grants-finder-tool#block-views-block-grants-finder-view-block-1



EDUCATION SOLUTIONS THROUGH OMNIA PARTNERS PUBLIC CONTRACT

Graybar is the awarded supplier of electrical, lighting, data communications and security products and related products, services and solutions through OMNIA Partners, Public Sector, the nation's largest and most experienced cooperative purchasing organization dedicated to public sector procurement.

Whether elementary school or community college, no two educational environments are the same when it comes to maximizing facility-wide safety and connectivity. At Graybar, we help optimize your resources to keep your on-campus project on budget. And on schedule.

SERVICE SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT PRODUCTS

Our comprehensive on-campus solutions accomplish more than helping everyone on campus feel safer and more connected – they can also help improve remote learning capabilities and recruitment efforts.

By giving you the support your project needs every step of the way, Graybar helps you get from spec to completion.

THE GRAYBAR-OMNIA PARTNERS, PUBLIC SECTOR PROGRAM:

- Satisfies solicitation requirements
- Lead public agency managed contracts
- No cost to participate
- Contracts allow your organization to maximize savings on the products you need while reducing procurement time.
- Ensures accurate contract pricing, terms and agency specific requirements.

CONTRACT #EV2370



ELECTRICAL



LIGHTING



DATA/
COMMUNICATION



SECURITY



NETWORKING
& WIRELESS



MRO SUPPLIES
& SERVICES



BROADBAND
& UTILITY



SERVICE
SOLUTIONS



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