



CASE STUDY

Securing Confidence: How Ogallala Public Schools Future-Proofed with Pine Cove and Verkada

Ogallala Public Schools (OPS), a small district in rural Nebraska, faced a mix of outdated technology, compliance risks, and limited IT staff. What the district needed wasn't just new systems — it needed a strategic partner to align technology decisions with leadership's mission and community expectations.

By working with Pine Cove as a trusted advisor and deploying Verkada's flexible, cloud-based platform, OPS unified security, modernized infrastructure, and built a foundation aligned with its vision: a "Culture of Confidence" for students, staff, and the community.

About Ogallala Public Schools



OPS serves nearly 750 students with about 80 teachers and 140 staff members. The district's vision is clear: to create a "Culture of Confidence," preparing every student to step into the world ready to succeed.

Technology Director Joshua G. Jerome has led IT transformations across Alaska, Wyoming, and Nebraska. When he arrived at OPS, he brought not just technical expertise but a firm belief that technology should directly support district culture and leadership priorities.



The slogan is culture of confidence... every student that goes to our schools, no matter what they do in life, they have the confidence to be able to jump out there and do it."

— Joshua G. Jerome

The Challenge

When Joshua joined OPS, the technology environment reflected decades of patchwork fixes:

- 1 Fragmented security:** Three incompatible door access systems, one dating back to the 1970s.
- 2 Non-compliant cameras:** Chinese-made cameras flagged by state and federal authorities.
- 3 Aging infrastructure:** Five IT closets filled with outdated cabling and hardware.
- 4 Lean IT staff:** Just two people responsible for all district technology.

Pine Cove: A Strategic Partner in Vision and Execution

Joshua turned to Pine Cove, a partner he had trusted since 2013. In Ogallala, Pine Cove proved once again they were more than a vendor — they were a strategic advisor:

- **Guiding compliance:** Helping the district replace flagged equipment with approved, future-proof solutions.
- **Unlocking funding:** Supporting OPS in pursuing a COPS grant to add over 100 new cameras.
- **Extending capacity:** Supplying expert engineers to supplement the district's lean IT staff.
- **Championing vision:** Keeping decisions aligned with OPS's mission of building student confidence.

The Solution: Verkada's Flexible, Integrated Platform

OPS evaluated several vendors, but Verkada stood apart because it offered a platform, not just products:

- **Unified management:** Cameras, door access, and sensors in a single platform.
- **Cloud-based flexibility:** No servers or complex updates, allowing OPS's small team to stay focused on priorities.
- **Scalable growth:** Easy to expand with new grants, new facilities, or additional safety needs.
- **Cost parity:** A 10-year analysis showed cloud-based solutions matched on-premises costs but delivered far greater long-term value.

Deployments to date include:



22 Verkada door access systems (replacing three legacy systems).



16 cameras installed, with 100+ more in planning.



Vape detection sensors to address student safety in restrooms.



I wanted one solution, one throat to choke, so to speak... I've always liked Verkada and always wanted to have it."

— Joshua G. Jerome

Results & Impact

- 1 Enhanced safety and compliance:** Outdated, non-compliant systems were replaced with secure, approved technology.
- 2 Visible improvements:** *"100%...my boss sees it every day. He used to have people angry because they couldn't get in...now we've made good strides, ease of access, getting in the buildings securely."*
— Joshua G. Jerome
- 3 Operational efficiency:** A two-person IT team can now manage district security without added complexity.
- 4 Scalability:** OPS can add cameras, sensors, and access points as funding becomes available, without disruption.
- 5 Leadership confidence:** *"Luckily I came to a school district where the superintendent is 100% behind me and supportive of me, and I have a voice at the table. I won't really take a job unless I have a voice at the table."*
— Joshua G. Jerome
- 6 Community trust:** *"Being in a small town, you have a lot of parent buy-in, which is huge."*
— Joshua G. Jerome

Lessons Learned



Choose partners, not vendors. Pine Cove's strategic role ensured OPS's technology decisions were sustainable and mission-driven.



Flexibility creates value. Verkada's platform allowed OPS to start with essentials and expand seamlessly as needs and funding grew.



Technology should serve culture. By tying infrastructure to a "Culture of Confidence," OPS built alignment from leadership to community.

Conclusion

Ogallala Public Schools' journey shows how even small districts with limited resources can achieve transformational results when they align technology with strategy and culture.

With Pine Cove guiding the process and Verkada providing the foundation, OPS replaced outdated systems with a unified, scalable solution that delivers safety, compliance, and confidence every day.

For district leaders, the message is clear: technology isn't just about cameras and cables. It's about ensuring students have the safe, supportive environment they need to build confidence and thrive.