



## Old-school locks just wouldn't do for Piedmont Schools

This California district standardized its door hardware and keys thanks to a local bond measure and state modernization funds.

In the grand scheme of things, the Great Depression of the 1930s wasn't very long ago, but when it comes to ADA compliance and access control, buildings erected 75 years ago seem ancient. Architectural details from that era can pose safety problems in modern-day campus environments. "For example, at that time, entering a building through double doors was a great idea," says Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD) Assistant Superintendent Michael Brady. "If you think about that in today's world, you can just tie a rope around those two handles and you've created a hazard. The obvious solution is to remove one of the handles." This was just one of the dilemmas facing PUSD officials in 2006 when a bond issue passed to provide funding for seismic upgrades and modernization.

### **Classrooms only locked from the outside**

The configuration of classroom door locks was a significant concern for teachers and district officials, according to Brady. "In a lockdown situation, teachers would have to exit their classrooms in order to lock their doors," he says. "We wanted to change so teachers could lock their doors from the inside." Push bars had to be replaced too. Previously, the old hardware could be chained together, trapping individuals inside the building. Lack of standardized locks and hardware was another issue.

"We've had modernization done in the 1950s, 1970s and 1990s, and every time there was a different key and lock system," Brady claims. Additionally, he says keys were being duplicated and handed down almost from generation to generation.



Piedmont Middle School

### District relies on vendor for product support

Schlage and Allegion products were selected by PUSD's Maintenance Technician Son Nguyen to address these issues, in part because of their good customer service track record. "We're a small district, and we rely on our vendors to provide us with the support we need," says Brady. "Schlage provides us with the best support. We call, and a representative is here the next day."

To fix the classroom lock issues at Piedmont Middle School, approximately 50 Schlage locks that have a classroom security function were installed. These locks allow an individual to immediately lock a door from the inside with a key, eliminating exposure outside the classroom during a hostile intruder situation. The ability to key lock from inside the classroom allows the teacher to control access and egress in an emergency and prevents the compromise that could occur with an inside push-button or thumb-turn latch.

In addition, several older push bar exit devices were replaced with Von Duprin 99 series touch pad devices. Where they are installed in classroom-type areas, they incorporate the same classroom security function as the locks. In the gymnasium, however, the devices incorporate a luminescent "soft glow" panel on the touch pad, which makes it easier to find the exit during a power failure.

### PUSD has more control of keys

In addition to the hardware being standardized, so were the keys. PUSD switched to the Schlage Everest and Everest Primus keyways at all facilities. Key blanks are only available with proper authorization, and the maintenance manager controls the key cutting and distribution. The specific keyway is geographically restricted for only PUSD use within a two-digit zip code area. The higher Security Everest Primus keyway is used on exterior doors, while interior doors use the Everest keyway. An Everest Primus key will operate Primus and Everest cylinders, while an Everest key will only operate an Everest cylinder. This allows interior doors or less sensitive areas to be secured with Everest cylinders. More vulnerable areas, such as exterior doors, are protected with Primus cylinders. Brady uses a Primus key as a building master key. Since Everest keys do not operate Primus cylinders, the district has an extra level of control over how much access each user has by choosing the type of key that is issued.

Although most of the doors are controlled by keys, because the gym and dance studio are frequently used by the community, their doors are controlled by cards so the district can track who is entering. As a result of the new keying system, Brady says management of the keys is much better. "It's great because I can go from one site to the next and not worry about which key is going to get me in. One key opens them all."



Piedmont Unified School District encompasses approximately two square miles and is located in Northern California. It serves more than 2,500 students and has a total of six schools, including three elementary schools, one middle school, one high school and one alternative school. Campus buildings date from as far back as the 1930s.

### About Allegion

Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) creates peace of mind by pioneering safety and security. As a \$2 billion provider of security solutions for homes and businesses, Allegion employs more than 7,800 people and sells products in more than 120 countries across the world. Allegion comprises 23 global brands, including strategic brands CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage® and Von Duprin®. For more information, visit [www.allegion.com/us](http://www.allegion.com/us) or call 888.758.9823.

