

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Making K-12 schools safer

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a multi-disciplinary approach to preventing crime through thoughtful design of an environment. In a K-12 school setting, CPTED can enhance school safety both outside the school and inside.

Here are some steps you can take right away to improve safety and security at low or no cost.





We'll show you how to integrate security technology with smart CPTED solutions.

The principles of CPTED are centered on the idea that crime is deterred most effectively by making crimes difficult to commit. Using the following five strategic principles, your school or district can implement a combination of natural, practical and physical solutions that improve safety.

1 Natural surveillance

Place physical features to maximize visibility. For example, maintain a clear line of sight between the school's front doors and the main office, and plant vegetation away from classroom windows. Boost surveillance with an electronic access control system that includes video surveillance and a credential reader with an intercom.

2 Access management

Guide traffic in and around the school with easily visible signage that shows people where to walk and where to drive or park. Using landscaping to create real or symbolic barriers to restricted areas of the school grounds. Use electronic locks that require a card or PIN to protect private offices or sensitive equipment storage.

3 Territoriality

Create clear definitions of space and a sense of community within, through the use of signage and decorative features. Build pride by showcasing student artwork or projects, and displaying motivational signs and school colors. Reinforce territory boundaries by scheduling public activities in common areas and restricting access to classrooms or other private areas.

4 Physical maintenance

Maintain buildings in a way that visibly demonstrates attentiveness and caring. Remove graffiti as quickly as possible, keep restrooms clean and in good repair, and maintain clean, well-lit stairwells. Keep security technology up-to-date, and locks and other door hardware in good repair to ensure optimal security and extend the life of the products.

5 Order maintenance

Set and reinforce clear policies about behavior in classrooms, hallways and during school activities or assemblies. Maintain an obvious adult presence when students are moving throughout the school, and empower those adults to enforce rules on the spot if needed.

The principles of CPTED don't have to be costly to implement, and when paired with the right security technology these strategies can dramatically enhance the safety and security of your school building.

To learn more about CPTED and take a free risk mitigation survey visit us online at www.allegion.com/us

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