

# Remote locking applications in schools

School districts around the country have been dealing with budget cuts for several consecutive years. According to a 2012 report from the American Association of School Administrators, more than 80 percent of administrators describe their district as being inadequately funded—with 35 states receiving funding that is well below 2008 levels.

Yet, at the same time, districts nationwide are experiencing an increase in school violence. A 2013 Allegion survey revealed that 79 percent of administrators listed security and safety as the top issue they face. The importance of security is weighing on many administrators as violent acts increase in frequency.

Yet, as administrators seek ways to do more with less, they cannot skimp on security. The safety of students depends on a school's ability to prevent violent incidents and, if they occur, lock down the building as quickly and safely as possible. Remote locking applications, such as the Schlage® CO-220 classroom security lock, are an affordable way for administrators to add security and enhance their staff's ability to safeguard students. This type of electronic locking solution can secure a door from up to 75 feet away with the push of a button on a key fob.

Those concerns can manifest in three primary ways: an active assailant, student/teacher violence and theft/vandalism.

## Active assailant—Lockdown

A decade ago, security concerns were more centered on property. Today, security concerns are primarily about people—and the unpredictable threats they pose. Administrators are increasingly concerned about the chance of an active assailant. Adding to that is the fact that 18 percent of attackers become mobile—that is, an attacker starts at one location and moves throughout the school. While these are the most widely reported incidents, there is only a one in two million chance of a student losing his or her life from violence in school. Nonetheless, schools should take precautions and be prepared for such a situation using solutions that reinforce and strengthen everyday safety and security.

**In active assailant situations**, remote locking applications allow teachers and staff to lock down classrooms and other spaces without having to step into harm's way, locate a key, or run from door to door trying to lock down a building.

## Student/teacher violence—Violence containment/crowd control

Statistically, student-on-student or student-on-teacher violence poses the greatest risk. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that the chance of a violent, non-fatal victimization is three in 100. Consider this:

- 81 percent of schools reported one violent incident or more at their site.
- In 2010, there were about 828,000 non-fatal victimizations at schools among students 12 to 18 years of age.
- Approximately seven percent of teachers report they have been threatened with injury or physically attacked by a student from their school.



## Remote locks and top school security concerns

The *American School and University Magazine* report reveals that, when it comes to security concerns, school administrators are primarily concerned about:

- **Outside people entering the building**
- **Crisis and emergency responsiveness**
- **Vandalism or destruction of property**



Clearly, schools need to prepare for every possible scenario—including the worst-case scenarios—but these statistics underpin the need for a balanced approach to internal and external threats. It's important that teachers and staff members have the ability to secure students and themselves in a space away from violence elsewhere in the school. Likewise, securing certain spaces or corridors enables a school to contain a violent situation so it doesn't spread.

#### **Theft/vandalism—Asset management/risk mitigation**

In addition to internal and external threats to people, administrators are also concerned about theft and vandalism, particularly with half of all non-fatal victimizations reported as theft. With a remote locking application on classroom doors, as well as openings for corridors and areas of assembly (cafeterias, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms), school leaders have the ability to secure various parts of a school easily via a fob with locked and unlocked buttons. Remote locking applications also allow the school to make certain areas of the building inaccessible after hours to groups (students, community members, etc.) who may be in the building for other reasons, thereby minimizing the likelihood of theft or violence.

#### **Advantages of remote locking**

As a remote locking solution, the CO-220 lock—which can be used on classroom and large assembly area doors—has benefits for everyday use, as well as emergency situations.

##### **Everyday use**

- Easily manage an opening via a fob worn around the neck or wrist
- Eliminate the need to carry a key ring with keys to multiple openings
- Maintain a real-time audit trail of unique user codes
- Visually confirm the door is secure with flashing red LED indicator

##### **Emergency lockdown**

- Instantly lock down a classroom or assembly space in seconds
- Save time locking down with remote fobs that pair up to 10 locks (or multiple fobs paired to a lock giving more than one individual the ability to secure a lock)
- Safely lock down a door without having to be right at the lock
- Visually confirm the door is secure with flashing red LED indicator

The CO-220 provides a localized solution for schools that want to upgrade without the cost or complexity of a networked system. Because it works with PIN numbers, magnetic stripe and proximity cards, the CO-220 is flexible and adaptable to a variety of credentialing platforms. Most of all, the CO-220 gives schools and their staffs a door hardware solution that allows them to be well prepared in emergency situations.

[Contact an Allegion sales consultant](#) to help you assess if a remote locking application can help you better manage security, while minimizing risk. You can register for a trial of the CO-220 classroom and security lock at <http://tiny.cc/safeschool>.

For more information about remote locking, call 866-516-1597 or visit us at [tiny.cc/allegionCO-220](http://tiny.cc/allegionCO-220).

## **About Allegion**

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