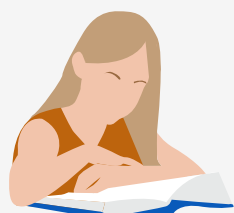


Preparing for a post-pandemic world:

A practical guide to balancing school safety and security

CHAPTER 1

How do schools balance security fundamentals with new COVID-19 guidance from the state or CDC?



Reference guidelines

1. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and recommendations](#)
2. Local, state and county guidance
3. [PASS Guidelines](#)



Feeling safe isn't the same as being safe

The balancing act: New protocols shouldn't compromise safety and security.

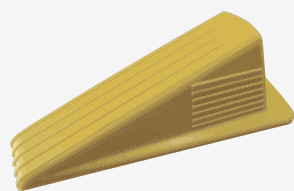
PASS Guidelines have recommendations for: **policies, procedures, people, roles** and **training**



Guidance from the CDC and state and local authorities takes precedence, but it's always important to weigh the security risks before implementing any new ideas. When evaluating and implementing new best practices, PASS Guidelines can assist you to create not only a balanced approach, but one that is effective and appropriate for your particular needs.

— MARK WILLIAMS

Board chairman, Partner Alliance for Safer Schools



To prop or not to prop

Access control tensions: Propping open doors for ventilation can pose security risks. While propping isn't typically recommended, if you decide to prop:

- All doors should remain locked
- Exterior doors should be monitored at all times

CHAPTER 2

How do schools prepare for civil disturbances?



Today's students are passionate and well-educated on many social justice issues. In today's climate, I highly recommend incorporating a comprehensive plan for potential protests and other events so that your school can proactively offer a safe forum for student voices to be heard.

— PAUL TIMM, PSP

Vice president, Facility Engineering Associates



Tips

- Include procedures for potential events like sit-ins, walk-outs and protests in your emergency planning
- Collaborate with local authorities to develop proactive plans
- Prepare teachers, students and the community to report suspicious activity
- Educate teachers and students on what to do in the event of a civil disturbance
- Develop notification procedures for all stakeholders—police, district personnel, parents, students and teachers

CHAPTER 3

How do schools balance life safety with today's threats?

It's crucial to carefully consider all aspects of security products when evaluating potential solutions, including:

- Egress
- Emergency response
- Unauthorized use



The immediate need to address classroom security—often within tight budgetary constraints—can sometimes lead to rushed decisions like purchasing retrofit security devices that do not comply with current building codes, fire codes and accessibility standards. It's crucial to carefully consider all aspects of security products when evaluating potential solutions.

— LORI GREENE

DAHC/CDC, CCPR, FDAI, FDHI, codes and resources manager, Allegion

Classroom security pop quiz: Is your classroom door code compliant?



1. Does the door unlatch with one releasing operation? (**Hint: With a few exceptions, current model codes require one operation to release all latches on the door simultaneously.**)
2. Can the door be opened for egress without a key, tool or special knowledge? (**Reminder: When it's time to exit, time is of the essence.**)
3. Is the releasing hardware mounted between 34 inches and 48 inches above the floor, or in the location required by the state or local codes?
4. If the door is a fire door, is the locking/latching hardware compliant with NFPA 80 and listed to UL 10C / NFPA 252?
5. Can the retrofit security device be deployed without attaching to or modifying the existing panic hardware, fire door hardware or door closers?
6. Is it possible to unlock the door from the outside with a key, credential, or other approved means? (**Don't forget! It is critical for school staff and emergency responders to have access to classrooms from the outside.**)

Funding fundamentals

How do you take this advice and implement changes in your school? Check out these funding resources that can help with safety and security.

Formula funds

Issued annually by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students

- [Individuals with Disabilities Education \(IDEA\) Act Program](#)
- [Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs](#)
- [Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program \(SSAE\)](#)

Competitive funds

Yearly competitions; schools compete to get some of the funds

- [STOP School Violence program issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\)](#)
- [School Violence Protection Program \(SVPP\) by U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services \(COPS\)](#)

Emergency relief funding to address the impact of COVID-19:

Cares Act funding (issued by the US government in response to the COVID-19 emergency)

- [CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\)](#)
- [CARES Act: Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Ready to take action and improve the security of your classrooms and well-being of your students? We've organized a checklist to help you take a comprehensive approach to refining your school's security strategy for a post-pandemic world.

[Download the checklist](#)