Decreasing safety concerns among college students and their parents

When college students make the transition to off-campus housing, many parents are concerned about their children’s safety, knowing their new facilities might not be as secure as their residence halls. It adds a new layer of safety concerns that on-campus students may not consider. They forgo the university security, building monitors, video cameras and emergency phones across campus and its buildings. While living off campus offers students freedom from university housing rules, more space than residence halls and the freedom to come and go as they please, it also forces students, parents and property managers to look more closely at the security of multifamily residences.

Recognizing these worries, property managers can update facilities to increase security, ensuring residents are safe and parents are at ease. One specific way to help address these safety concerns in an off-campus housing facility is to integrate an electronic access control system to increase building security.

In a 2017 Schlage® survey conducted by Wakefield Research about key sharing, the majority (63 percent) of Americans reported that at least one person who does not currently live with them has a key to their home. In fact, 18 percent of Americans have given a key to their home to three or more people who don’t live with them, while one-third of Americans admit to making a copy of a house or rental apartment key without asking permission from the property manager or landlord.

Making key management even more of a hassle, these properties have students regularly moving in and out every year. It can be difficult to ensure that only authorized individuals can enter the facility. By implementing an electronic access control system, property managers can easily grant or revoke access as needed, ensuring that building access is limited to those who are permitted. Knowing that only authorized people can enter the facility, residents will feel safer and their parents will have one less thing to worry about.

The benefit of upgrading to a new system doesn’t end there. Electronic access control systems also allow property managers to view a history of building access. The timeline provided in an access report is valuable in many situations, such as a theft investigation. After reviewing this information, those involved will have a better idea of who visited a specific area and the timeframe and duration of their visit.

While upgrading to a new system might seem daunting, investing in an electronic access control solution can provide many short and long term benefits. During the upgrade process, property managers should consider both present and future factors that might impact the system and its hardware. As technology continues to advance, property managers might worry that their investment will quickly become outdated. To address this concern, they should consider an electronic access control system and door hardware with an open architecture design, such as SchlageControl™ Smart Locks. These locks seamlessly integrate with Allegion’s Software Alliance members and offer innovative solutions to increase the security and efficiency of the facility. Likewise, these locks are easy to update, allowing property managers the freedom to make changes and upgrades as needed.

Overall, investing in an electronic access control system offers increased operational efficiency and facility security, and in turn, decreases safety concerns among parents who are worried about their children.