K-12 security by the numbers

Schools should be a safe place, fostering a sense of security among students and faculty. Controlling access is a critical part of a school’s efforts to provide a safe learning environment. It begins with a secure perimeter—from the main entrance and beyond, to all secondary entrances and tertiary openings. Know the potential risks facing K-12 schools today and get started on a comprehensive security plan with a few key steps.

1. Assess threats and vulnerabilities.

There are a number of free self-assessment tools available to help you prioritize security initiatives based on: Criticality, vulnerability, probability.

2. Consider the security of your facility in totality.

It is common for the majority of available security funds to be focused on the most visible points of entry, leaving secondary doors vulnerable due to cost constraints.

3. Implement a layered security approach.

Layered security works from the outside in to protect critical assets. As one layer is bypassed, another layer provides an additional level of protection.

60% of schools use janitorial tours as the primary means of ensuring doors are secure.

56% of schools with a networked system still manually dog doors.

55% of schools reported that their secondary doors were frequently left unlocked or propped open, with 22% stating that this occurs on a weekly or even daily basis.

6 secondary entrances per school, which are less likely than main entrances to have electronic access control.


84,000 public schools estimated throughout the U.S., averaging 44 years old with 12 years since major renovations.

Contact an expert