Your partner for security solutions
Lockdown: The foundation of your security plan

Access control is the way a school manages credentials and the access and egress of staff, students and visitors on a daily basis. It’s the most critical aspect of any school safety strategy.

However, in the event of an emergency, access control is not enough. Your security plan requires a lockdown strategy to manage the comings and goings of each opening on demand, in the moment, as soon as an emergency arises.

Classroom security

There are a number of areas within a school that are vital to protect. While technology, administrative areas, and other capital equipment may be targets in the event of an incident, the most important assets in a school are students, staff, and visitors.

Parking lot

It is important to have a strategy for securing areas beyond the building itself. Exterior areas of focus could include parking lots, walkways, outdoor gathering areas, etc.
Your lockdown strategy should be based on two critical aspects:

**Security Layers:** Every campus can be broken down into exterior and interior layers (see illustration). When creating a lockdown strategy, it is critical to include all of these layers in your planning process.

**People and Protocols:** A school’s ability to activate lockdown relies on the people and protocols you have in place. Protocol must be clearly established and regularly practiced. Likewise, whichever solutions you have, you need trained people who can properly execute them in the event of an emergency.

The importance of lockdown cannot be overstated. It directly impacts a school’s ability to safeguard students, staff and visitors within its walls.
## Lockdown options

### Manual lockdown
- Keys manually lock down a room or space
- Relies upon an individual having the right key in hand and being at the right opening during a lockdown situation
- Speed of lockdown dependent on how fast staff member can get to a door to lock it
- Requires the highest level of staff accountability
- Most economical of lockdown solutions

### Remote lockdown
- Standalone electronic solution providing instant local lockdown
- Lockdown activated by remote fob within proximity of door
- Requires an individual with an authorized fob to put the door into lockdown mode
- Most economical electronic solution

### Centralized lockdown
- Industry leading Schlage AD Series can enable campus wide lockdown in seconds
- Centralized lockdown is initiated by an authorized individual
- Simultaneous lockdown across a building or campus can occur when a specific combination of access control software and hardware are in place

Select the credential that best meets your building, protocols and budget. Options include patented keys, fobs, or magnetic stripe, proximity or smart cards.
Developing a security strategy

A comprehensive security strategy should be an ongoing part of your effort to provide a safe school environment.

**Hardware audit:** Industry experts recommend developing door hardware standards across multiple facilities or campuses. In the event of emergency lockdown situations, standards can minimize confusion and aid in response speed. Contact Allegion to perform an audit of your facility’s current hardware solutions.

**Access control/lockdown strategy:** Identify your lockdown strategy and how it relates to your school’s access control platform. Consider security protocols, lockdown solutions and credential management.

**Safety committee:** Form a safety committee—composed of administrators, faculty, front office/receptionists, security, IT, health services and emergency responders from the community—to regularly assess current assets, threats, hardware, procedures, etc.

**Policies and procedures:** Define how you’ll control access at your school, along with staff roles and responsibilities for implementing those procedures. Protocols and actions should be clearly defined, documented and practiced regularly.

**Staff training:** Include policies and procedures as part of your school’s code of conduct and ensure educators—even substitutes and support personnel—are trained on them. Establish staff-wide accountability and enforce it at all levels.
For more than two decades, our security and safety advisors have specialized in helping school administrators evaluate needs within a specific building, as well as across an entire campus or district. Whatever your starting point or budget, Allegion can help you improve your school’s security and lockdown capabilities. Together, we’ll create a solution that is secure, strategic and smart.

Contact us today.
877-671-7011
Recognizing the need for lockdown

- If your door hardware requires an individual to step out of the room to lock the door, then your staff and students could be at risk.
- Hardware with “unrestricted ability” to lock or unlock the door could allow anyone, including students, to take control of the opening.
- Magnets or tape on the door to prevent latching violates code if the door is fire-rated.
- If your school’s doors do not automatically close, then they are not in a ready position for an emergency lockdown.
- Hardware that is not permanently attached to the door, requiring teachers or staff to locate and attach the device in the midst of a lockdown emergency, can take critical time.
- Door hardware that slows down entering or leaving a room during an emergency situation could unnecessarily place staff and students in harm’s way.
School security tops the list of issues impacting K-12 schools today

Every stakeholder at your school expects students to walk through the doors each day into a safe environment—one that is properly secured to ensure only authorized individuals have access.

Allegion is experienced in a variety of environments and can help you set a strategy that builds a foundation of security, both today and in the future. With our long history in security, schools often invite us to be part of their security committee. We can help you analyze your environment’s unique issues and identify solutions that fit your facility, management protocols and budget.

When it comes to securing your facility, there isn’t a one-size-fits-all solution. The age of your facility, credential platform and protocols, budget and long-term security strategy must be considered.

Wherever you are on the continuum, we can help you improve security. We’ll address today’s most pressing needs and help you develop a long-term strategy that can evolve and adapt to future advancements.

The key is to just start. And Allegion is here to help.
About Allegion

Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) is a global pioneer in safety and security, with leading brands like CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage®, SimonsVoss® and Von Duprin®. Focusing on security around the door and adjacent areas, Allegion produces a range of solutions for homes, businesses, schools and other institutions. Allegion is a $2 billion company, with products sold in almost 130 countries.

For more, visit www.allegion.com.