



**SECURITYIN30**  
**LIVE WITH ALLEGION**

Best Practices for Safer  
Schools

July 10, 2020

Question & Answer

**Q: Will the PASS info be the same for Canada?**

A: The PASS approach is relevant in Canada as it is in many other international markets where it has been downloaded. The PASS Guidelines are a roadmap, not a code or standard. PASS is unaware of another document that helps schools think through their safety and security programs as PASS does. Layered Security, Risk Assessment processes, Building Assessment Processes and technologies don't know borders.

**Q: Do you know if there is anything like this for the Canadian schools - in terms of standards?**

A: PASS is not aware of any national school standard in Canada. That said, the Guidelines are a roadmap for schools to follow in order to enhance the safety and security of their environments. The Guidelines have been used internationally by several different countries. So, the Guideline Document is not something that is limited by borders. It speaks to technology around safety and security as well as how to set up policies, procedures, and training.

**Q: What are your thoughts on those who claim Active Shooter drills are emotionally scarring for children?**

A: Here's a link to a recent white paper published on this topic. <https://passk12.org/news/pass-recommendations-for-appropriate-drills-why-they-are-essential-to-every-school-safety-program/>. The whitepaper lays out what PASS believes is the correct process for conducting lockdown drills. PASS does not look to "set schools on fire to practice fire drills." Drills are learning experiences and should not inflict emotional damage to students and staff.

**Q: Are you putting together guidelines for Covid-19 campus safety?**

A: PASS does have a document in final draft stage that is specific to "unplanned School Closures." This would include a pandemic type of scenario. It is a document and a checklist which is a subset of much of the Guidelines document with some specific caveats around the pandemic."

Q: Are you finding school leadership doing an SPR (Stakeholder Preparedness Review) as a result of COVID where they may not have in the past?

A: PASS talks extensively about Planning, Preparing and Practicing. Certainly, part of that is assessing your risk to a given situation. The Guidelines recommend having an EOP (Emergency Operation Plan) as part of the District Wide Policies and Procedures component. We refer folks to the NRF (National Response Framework) as well as NIMS (National Incident Management System) and ICS (Incident Command System) for guidelines on how set up their plans. Additionally, under the People Roles and Training Component, there are several best practices around training, planning, preparing and practicing for adversarial events.

Q: The City of Boston is looking for additional space to accommodate social distancing. What type of guidelines are there for Temporary COVID-19 related situations? Meaning that COVID policies will have major effects on security policies. Has PASS issued warnings or guidelines?

A: The PASS guidelines and checklist are not impacted by school expanding their teaching space. That said, an assessment should be performed if major changes are taking place on how the spaces are used. For example, if a school is going to use the space of a church next to the school for instructional purposes, then including that space in a PASS assessment would be recommended. We are looking at safety from an architectural perspective. Going forward it remains to be seen if social distancing will be something we include in the guidelines. PASS has not issued warnings, however, preparing a document that helps schools navigate unplanned school closings around safety and security. It is in the format of the Guidelines and Checklist tools.

Q: Do you recommend manufacturers?

A: PASS does not recommend manufacturers or call out specific product brands. PASS helps schools prioritize and employ the best practices and proven security measures. The focus of PASS is on technologies. With regard to products such as cameras, you will see the narrative is around specifications of the products that should be used in specific applications. Download the Guidelines and take a look. By making recommendations based on performance, it gives our partners the opportunity to present their solutions, not as PASS approved (we don't approve products) but as meeting the PASS Guideline requirements.