

THE CLASSROOM DOOR: LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

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DLTNI#EHFS

Enhancing locks on classrooms and interior doors of schools is the least expensive and easiest step to increase the safety of students and staff in schools.

While security experts will assert that security is best when it begins at the furthest perimeter of the premises, for many schools, campuses and school districts, the locations and physical size of the facilities as well as the shortage of trained security personnel makes such a security management scheme time consuming and costly to implement. Often such projects are reprioritized reactively rather than proactively.

So a popular trend has been to protect the doors to areas where the students are most vulnerable, inside their classrooms where fleeing or hiding may be difficult in a confrontation situation. Such measures are implemented with or without the aforementioned integrated access control in place since locking the classroom door is the last line of defense if there is an active shooter.

Instead of setting up the perimeter protection and then working our way in to specific interior areas, as would be the strategy for the typical access control system, schools opt for immediate action with upgrades to door locks.

The security industry has responded with a variety of locks and other solutions with the purpose of preventing the unauthorized entry into specific rooms by unauthorized individuals without compromising the life safety characteristics of the doors and openings.

So although there are enhanced control and notification systems available and being introduced to enhance the school's ability to negotiate an "active shooter" scenario, this article will present door hardware whose purpose is to accelerate locking down individual classrooms.

BestAccess's <http://www.shelterlockdown.com/> website not only explains their innovative school lockdown products, but also reports some important statistics regarding school security.

- There has never been an event where the active shooter breached a locked classroom door.* (*Finding from final report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission)
- More than 60 percent of these incidents are over before police and first responders arrive at the scene.
- The average active shooter incident is over in five minutes or less—with half of those ending in less than two minutes.
- The FBI reported 160 active shooter incidents between 2000 and 2013—an average of 11.4 incidents during the 13-year span.
- In 2015 alone, shootingtracker.com reported 330 active shooter incidents across the United States.
- 86% of shootings occur inside a building in spaces such as classrooms, large assembly spaces, offices and meeting rooms.

The security industry offers a large selection of solutions to securing schools. Some are based on mechanical locks which are the bedrock of physical security, and many enhance this with hybrid integrations.

Hager Classroom Intruder Lock

Hager's 3495 Classroom Intruder is a cylindrical lock keyed on both sides of the door, which enables the key on the inside to lock or unlock the outside lever. The inside lever operates the latchbolt for immediate egress at all times. An indicator rose helps ensure the key is turned in the proper direction during times of emergency.

Hager's 3857, Classroom Security Intruder, is a mortise lock keyed on both sides of the door with the deadbolt thrown or retracted by a key on either side. Throwing the deadbolt locks the outside lever preventing entry by intruders. Turning the inside lever simultaneously retracts the deadbolt and latch and unlocks the outside lever.

More Info: www.hagerco.com



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