

Physical Security Resources



Protect against potential acts of targeted violence and other threats by improving the physical security of schools.

In today's environment, kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools face a range of threats, including acts of violence, natural disasters, and emergency situations. Schools can work to prepare for and protect against these threats by taking proactive measures to improve the physical security of school grounds, buildings, and classrooms. From the physical design of schools and campuses to the development and ongoing maintenance of preparedness plans, security and resilience should be at the forefront of schools' safety efforts.

Physical security measures can also mitigate external threats and reduce the amount of harm inflicted if incidents occur. Conducting a site assessment can help schools identify existing vulnerabilities, integrate future security practices, and inform the development of building security plans. Schools can also drive down risk and build resilience by working with district and community partners to share information about best practices, potential threats, and mitigation strategies.



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Resources

SchoolSafety.gov offers resources, programs, and tools school communities can use to enhance their physical security, including:

- [Assessing Your School Site](#): This course was designed to help K-12 schools and districts understand what site assessments are and how they can be used to inform school emergency operations plans and safety, security, emergency management, and preparedness programs.
- [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\) School Assessment](#): This tool assesses the use of CPTED principles in three areas of schools: grounds, buildings, and interiors. It includes the principles of natural surveillance, access management, territoriality, physical maintenance, and order maintenance.
- [Designing for Safety, Designing for Learning](#): This journal article covers the use of and principles related to CPTED to help reduce the number of triggering events that contribute to school violence.
- [Exercise Starter Kits](#): These self-conducted tabletop exercises, tailored for the academic community, include a set of scalable tools aimed to test existing emergency plans, protocols, and procedures, while also strengthening preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.
- [K-12 School Security Guide Suite](#): This set of products is designed to inform safety and physical security planning for K-12 schools. It includes the K-12 School Security Guide (3rd ed.), which provides a comprehensive doctrine and systems-based methodology for vulnerability assessment and planning, and the School Security Assessment Tool, a web-based assessment that walks users through a tailorable vulnerability analysis.
- [Partner Alliance for Safer Schools \(PASS\) Safety and Security Guidelines](#): These guidelines provide best practices specifically for securing K-12 school facilities, including elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. The PASS School Security Checklist allows users to assess the current state of safety and security efforts in their school or district compared to nationwide best practices.
- [Security and Resiliency Guide for Countering Improvised Explosive Devices \(C-IED\)](#): This guide is intended to help communities, individual organizations, and facility owner/operators plan and implement C-IED activities within their overall public safety and emergency management approach.
- [SITE ASSESS](#): This mobile app allows school personnel to walk around buildings and grounds and examine their safety, security, accessibility, and emergency preparedness.

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