



Classroom Security

The Dos and Don'ts of Classroom Security

Even though school shootings draw a large proportion of media attention, the odds of being involved in a campus shooting incident are relatively low. However, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the rates of nonfatal incidents are much greater. In fact, 486,400 12- to 18-year-old students experienced victimization at school in 2014. Combine this with the occurrences for younger ages as well as the various medical situations that happen in schools, and the number of emergencies that arise in the classroom could total in the millions for students and teachers each year. This means classroom security should be a crucial element of school planning for every district in the nation. The following are several dos and don'ts of classroom security.

Do List and Prioritize Threats

Everything from gun violence and belligerent students to emergency health issues need to be listed and prioritized. A clear and precise plan of action can then be implemented for each situation. Threats can be divided into internal and external as well as varying degrees of violence, interpersonal conflicts, and health emergencies. Every potential threat from community offenders, staff, students, and angry former employees should be accurately described and defined so potential plans of action can be developed.

Do Hold Briefings and Drills

Once threats and emergencies have been clearly defined it's imperative to create a plan for each possible scenario that may arise. Teacher instruction must be in place and drills should be carried out on a regular basis. Just as most schools hold tornado and fire drills several times each year, drills for health emergencies and any type of violent situation need to be practiced with the same regularity. Clearly defined procedures for students and staff must be implemented, clearly articulated and understood, and then practiced on a regular basis.

Don't Create a Confusing Plan

Even though there are numerous scenarios that school leaders need to plan for, the course of action for each should remain relatively simple and easy to remember. For starters, don't come up with too many complicated codes and keywords to remember. For example, creating "code red, green, purple, or orange" as well as several numbered codes can easily be confused during an intense situation. [PBS reported](#) that a simple and general vocabulary system needs to be in place that all students and teachers can easily understand.

Do Incorporate an Adequate Response System

In recent years a number of devices and security systems have come on the market to keep schools safer and assist individuals during a crisis situation. There are a variety to choose from including security cameras, digital video recorders, and wearable devices. Most schools will need to keep costs in mind when deciding on the best security measures and response system to put in place.

Don't Forget to Involve Parents

Including parents is especially important when it comes to problems that can arise from health and behavioral issues. Everything from information regarding food allergies to previous medical treatment and behavior problems should be available for teachers and administrators. It's important to foster good relationships with parents so they don't feel uneasy giving private information about their child. Finally, make sure parents are aware of the emergency procedures in place so these can be reinforced at home as well.

What's Your Security Plan?

Troxell has worked with numerous schools across the country to implement a security plan involving Help Alert, a wearable device that enables teachers to send two levels of help signals to alert administration. The system works over the existing WIFI system and is quick and easy to implement, allowing schools to up their security without delay or exorbitant cost. Contact your local Troxell rep to learn more about this effective, streamlined safety technology.