

IN DEFENSE OF OUR SCHOOLS

RESTRICTING ACCESS TO CLASSROOMS USING DOOR LOCKS

NARRATIVE:

Having doors locked during an emergency is the best way to slow an intruder by providing a barrier. This can be done in a variety of ways.

Doors may have an inside manual latch that can be flipped or pushed to lock the door without going outside the room. In an emergency situation, a person would lock it from inside when notified of an issue.

A panic button system can automatically lock all interior doors that would be kept closed when the rooms are occupied. These systems would also have alarms to alert staff to exterior doors that are left open.

If the doors can only be locked from the outside with a key, it may take too long in an emergency to lock the door. A staff member would have to go to the hall with a key, put it in the knob, turn it, remove it, reenter the room and shut the door before the occupants in the room would be secure.

The solution then would be to keep the door locked at all times. This may be problematic in elementary buildings where students and staff enter and exit during instruction throughout the day. Students may need to be trained to knock when needing to enter a room and others could be trained to identify the person and open the door.

Support staff could be provided with keys to enter the classrooms they access often. Rooms that multiple staff members utilize with students or access to work, can be keyed to work with any building key. Issues arise with areas that everyone may need to enter such as media centers, libraries, gyms and nurse's rooms.

Magnets in door jams have been utilized, but may not be feasible due to fire safety issues that want doors closed and latched. There are also devices on the market that do not allow a door to latch unless it is flipped.

Below are some examples of different options for securing the classroom doors.

School Safe

School Safe is a device which is attached to the door frame and does not allow the door to latch. The door is left locked all day and in the event an incident occurs the device can be flipped and the door will closed already locked.

As described on their website: School Safe is a simple, inexpensive device that installs on a classroom door or jamb to allow the door to be easily secured in seconds from inside

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the classroom during a lockdown emergency.

Typically, in the event of a school lockdown emergency, teachers have to go into the hallway to lock their doors. To secure the classroom, they first need to locate their keys, open the door, go into the hall, get the key in the lock, lock the door, come back inside and close the door. These steps take precious time when time counts most and puts their students and themselves at great risk of exposure to an intruder.

Cost: \$7.98

Lockdown Magnet

Lockdown magnets is a magnet strip which is placed over the strike plate. The door is left locked. When an incident occurs there is a need for the door to be locked there is no need to go out into the hall to lock. All that needs to be done is to pull the magnetic strip off and shut the door.

According to the information from Lockdown Magnet the Lockdown magnet makes securing classrooms and offices faster and safer during school lockdown drills and actual lockdowns. The Lockdown Magnet enables you to lock your door in literally seconds.

Cost: \$3.25

Door Blok

The Door Blok is hooked around the inside handle of the door and around the outside handle. This prevents the door from latching so the door can be kept locked. The Door Blok can be removed and the door locked without going into the hallway.

Cost: \$7

RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL COST NECESSARY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

If building design is “open concept” or pod, work may need to be done to add doors. Switching out door locks for ones that lock from the inside would require funding. Rekeying doors to work with multiple keys could require work. Installing a panic button system would be a major cost for a building.

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REFERENCES:

“SOME LOCAL SCHOOLS ARE ADDING LOCKS TO CLASSROOM DOORS
SINCE SANDY HOOK SHOOTINGS”

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/education/some-local-schools-are-adding-locks-to-classroom-doors-since/article_17af8c3e-5b5d-56f2-b95f-47cda525921d.html

School Safe Global Innovations LLC

<http://globalinnovationsco.com/products/school-safe>

<http://www.mastergrindingandsecurity.com/lockdown-magnets/>

<http://doorblok.com/index.html>

SUBMITTED BY:

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Additions and modifications made by:

Officer Heidi Johnston OPPD

School Safe



\$7.95 each

Choose device type

Order this device for doors that open in to the classroom and have the hinges on the left, when looking at the door from the hallway.

***Price does not include shipping and handling.
Orders may be placed online, or by calling us at 360.918.4035.***



School Safe® is a simple, inexpensive device that installs on a classroom door or jamb to allow the door to be easily secured in seconds from inside the classroom during a lockdown emergency.

Typically, in the event of a school lockdown emergency, teachers have to go into the hallway to lock their doors. To secure the classroom, they first need to locate their keys, open the door, go into the hall, get the key in the lock, lock the door, come back inside and close the door. These steps take precious time when time counts most and puts their students and themselves at great risk of exposure to an intruder.

Lockdown Magnet

Easy to install:

- Place magnet over strike plate
 - Put door lock into the locked position
 - Close door
-

Open door a few inches when the lockdown is called:

- Remove magnet strip
- Close Door



Save Time
As Well As Lives

EASY TO INSTALL



with the **QUICK LOCKDOWN MAGNET[◊]**
& **PANIC BAR STRAP**

LOCKDOWN MAGNET

1. Put door into the locked position
2. Place **LOCKDOWN MAGNET** over strike plate*
3. Close door**

When the lockdown is called:

- Open door a few inches
- Remove **LOCKDOWN MAGNET**
- Close door

* Lockdown Magnet will only work on steel frames

** Some doors may need to be adjusted to fit Lockdown Magnet between door & frame

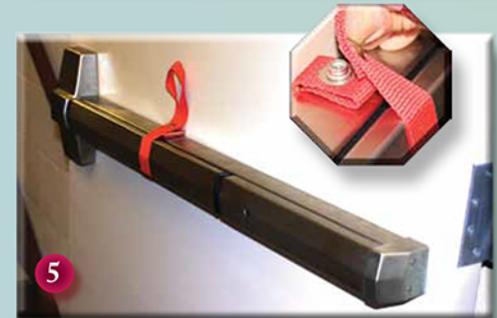
PANIC BAR STRAP

4. Lock panic bar exterior trim
5. Attach **PANIC BAR STRAP** around panic bar with the stainless steel snap (assembly required)

When the lockdown is called:

6. Pull loop on **PANIC BAR STRAP** to release

DOOR IS NOW LOCKED & SECURED!





FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATION

SECURITY VS. EXITING...

Door Locking Hardware in Schools



Division of the
State Architect

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

DSA Guidelines for Door Locking Hardware in Schools



“Egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.”



With the acknowledged need for campus security due to the increase of school violence, numerous questions have arisen as to what are the acceptable choices in the California Building Code for door hardware and under what circumstances may the different types be used? This document is produced to assist school districts and design professionals in selecting door hardware for their projects and answer some of these questions.

- From a security perspective, the most important function of a door is to **control entry**. Entry control involves the configuration, strength, durability, composition of the door, its hinges and its frame, and the control and effectiveness of its latching and locking hardware.
- From the standpoint of fire safety, however, a door’s **exit function** is the ruling factor, one that is highly regulated by the California Building Code by classifying doors as part of a building’s **means of egress**.

Access control is the primary area of conflict between security and life-safety provisions. While locking outside doors to prevent people from entering a building is permissible under Building Code requirements, inhibiting free egress is not.

The general requirement for exit/egress doors is found in the 2010 California Building Code (CBC) Section 1008.1.9 which states that, except as specifically permitted, “Egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.”

► **Watch Inferno Video:** http://www.metacafe.com/watch/682670/from_living_room_to_inferno_in_under_2_minutes/

Details of Locking Devices with Definitions, Requirements, & Examples

Restraint Locks

Description: Adding a locking device to the exit/ egress side of the door which prohibits exiting the area or building. Area is classified per CBC as an “I-3” Occupancy.

Requirements: Multiple, including, but not limited to, CBC Section 308.4, 408, and Chapter 10.



Examples:

- Quiet Rooms or Holding Rooms until law enforcement arrives.
- Buildings and Structures whose Occupants are under restraint.

Electromagnetically Locked Doors

Description: The main purpose of this lock is for security and monitoring entry. The Electromagnetic lock incorporates a mechanism to allow remote release. The release device can be a control trim on the door frame with a built-in solenoid. The application is permitted for doors in the means of egress that do not otherwise require panic hardware.

Examples: This is the most variable part of an access control systems; it can include several types of card readers, keypads, or biometric scanners. However it's done, the access device is what lets users identify themselves to the system.



Mortise Locksets

Definition: Locks that fit into a mortise in the door edge and typically feature levers to operate a latch bolt.

Requirements: New innovations in door hardware are continuously emerging to meet society's changing needs. Take, for example, recent developments in mortise locking functions specifically designed for the school environment. One of these, as named by lock smiths, is the "security classroom" function. A traditional classroom lockset requires the door to be locked from the outside, while the inside lever remains operable. In theory this is great, since unauthorized individuals cannot enter the room without a key. But it actually creates vulnerability by forcing the teacher to open the door, insert their key in the outside cylinder, turn their key to lock the door and then close the door. This takes considerable time and may expose the faculty member to the very danger they are locking the door against.

Example:



A Solution Exists

Imagine the same lockset with a cylinder on the inside that does the same thing as the cylinder on the outside, that is, locks the outside lever. You now have a "security classroom function" lockset that can easily be locked from inside the room. These are allowed on all educational classrooms and buildings where operation of the egress lever hardware is not disabled.

At a Quick Glance

Is Proposed Action Permitted?

YES

NO

CBC Section

1. Chain and padlock panic hardware.



§1008.1.9.5

2. Have locking hardware on building entrance doors to assemblies and offices.



§1008.1.9.3(2)*

3. Lock perimeter fencing gates when safe dispersal area is provided.



§442.3 &
1008.2.1

4. Lock access gates to safe dispersal area.



§1008.1.9.5

5. Have remote total campus lock down for both entrance and exiting/egress.



§1008.1.9.3**

6. On and after July 1, 2011, all new building construction projects submitted to the Division of the State Architect shall include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside.

(a) The locks shall conform to the specifications and requirements set forth in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

(b) Doors that are locked from the outside at all times and pupil restrooms are exempt from the requirements of this section.

See [BU 11-05: Impact of AB 211 - Concerning Door Hardware \(PDF - 69 KB\)](#)



Education Code
§17075.50**

7. Install security bars and grilles on any portion of school campus access ways.



§1008.1.4.5

8. For group A, E & B occupancies install special entrance devices such as cardreader, punch keys, or biometric scanners.



§1008.1.9.8***

9. Have manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts on storage or equipment room inactive door.



§1008.1.9.4

10. Install delayed egress locks on assembly or classroom doors.
When building has automatic fire sprinklers and meets all criteria of code.



§1008.1.9.7

11. Provide padlocks for equipment areas.



* **This allowance requires that the locking device is readily distinguishable as locked and a readily visible sign is posted on the egress side on or adjacent to the door which states, "THIS DOOR IS TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN BUILDING IS OCCUPIED"**

** **Door must be openable from the inside without a key, special knowledge, use, or effort.**

*** **Not allowed where panic hardware is required.**

**** **Gates and door may be padlocked shut when the area is not a portion of normally occupied space.**



Questions & Answers:

1. Question: How can the school help prevent a violent person from locking students in a large room and holding them as hostages?

Answer: Consider replacing older model panic exit hardware with flush push bar hardware that cannot be chained shut or otherwise secured against exiting.

2. Question: Why do the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities and others state different requirements for locks and door hardware than from what DSA requires?

Answer: When a national publication is a source of information it may quote standards and codes which California does not adopt, and also does not include the California State Fire Marshal Amendments.

3. Question: Is panic hardware available that can be locked from the inside yet allows exiting from the area?

Answer: Yes, there are a few types and manufacturers who supply this device.

4. Question: Can we have power-operated doors where means of egress doors are operated by power, such as doors with a photoelectric-actuation mechanism to open the door upon the approach of a person?

Answer: Yes, for group A & B occupancies provided that the doors are designed with criteria per CBC Section 1008.1.4.4 Access-controlled egress doors.

5. Question: Can I make all door hardware free swinging without latching?

Answer: No, if the door is part of a rated wall assembly it must be positive latching.

Contact Information

Contact your local Fire Department or State Fire Marshal's Office for information concerning changes in door hardware that may occur after completion of construction projects.

The State Fire Marshal number is (916) 445-8500. You are also welcome to contact the Fire & Life Safety Lead in one of the following regional offices:

DSA Headquarters Office

1102 Q Street, Suite 5100
Sacramento, California 95811
(916) 445-8100

DSA Sacramento Regional Office

1102 Q Street, Suite 5200,
Sacramento, California 95811
(916) 445-8730

DSA Oakland Regional Office

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1201
Oakland, California 94612
(510) 622-3101

DSA Los Angeles Regional Office

700 N. Alameda Street, Suite 5-500
Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 897-3995

DSA San Diego Regional Office

10920 Via Frontera, Suite 300
San Diego, California 92127
(858) 674-5400

SOME LOCAL SCHOOLS ARE ADDING LOCKS TO CLASSROOM DOORS SINCE SANDY HOOK SHOOTINGS

January 22, 2013 12:00 am • By Jessica Bock

St. Louis Post Dispatch

With one click, Cathy Holway can lock her classroom at Combs Elementary School, securing the door quickly from the inside, in hopes of protecting her students and herself.

That wasn't always the case. The Ferguson-Florissant School District began adding new locks to classroom doors for extra security in 2007, long before the shootings in December at an elementary school in Connecticut. But in the month following those deaths, several St. Louis-area school districts are making similar updates.

Locks were the first step the Edwardsville School District took to strengthen its safety and security measures after the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. The district installed new classroom door locks during the winter break. Lindbergh has plans to do so in the next several weeks, and Rockwood will ask voters for money for the project as part of its bond issue on the April ballot.

In the debate over how to keep our schools safe — with solutions ranging from arming teachers and principals to banning military-style assault weapons — classroom locks would seem like a simple step.

Some schools, such as those in the Ferguson-Florissant and Francis Howell districts, have had the so-called “intruder locks” for years.

At others, teachers cannot lock their doors without stepping into the hallway, or aren't able to do so while inside the classroom.

“For me, to be able to lock the door from the inside, this does make it better,” said Holway, who teaches fourth grade. “It's an added bonus to all of the security measures.”

Administrators, too, feel as though changing something as simple as the locks can make a difference. Some of the surviving students and teachers in Newtown, Conn., hid in locked classrooms during the shooting rampage.

“It's a new paradigm after what happened” in Newtown, said Eric Cochran, director of curriculum and student programs for Lindbergh schools. “The first conversation we had was, ‘What can we do immediately to make sure our kids are as safe as possible?’”

But new hardware comes with a price tag. The project is estimated to cost more than \$200,000 for Lindbergh High and Sperreng Middle, the only two schools in the Lindbergh district without classroom intruder locks. Hazelwood officials are assessing how much it might cost to change classroom locks at 32 schools and early childhood centers.

Paul Fennewald of the Missouri Center for Education Safety said that, in the case of an intruder, the best scenario is if a teacher can lock his or her classroom door quickly without stepping into the hall, then cover windows to the classroom and hide with students.

Schools have a wide range of door-locking options, he said. One school in the Kansas City area has an automated system that can lock all doors at once.

“It all takes money,” Fennewald said. “That’s not possible in most schools.”

The cost is primarily what has prevented some schools from installing the locks, but concerns about students locking teachers out of classrooms come up too, he said. Some intruder locks use keys, and the options vary by price.

Fennewald and other school safety experts are studying a mechanical device that might allow a teacher to quickly barricade a door, which could be a less expensive option for schools.

“It gets expensive,” said Ann Jarrett, teaching and learning director for the Missouri National Education Association. “But when they have to step out into the hallway, it impairs their ability to protect their students.”

Kevin Grubb, owner of Sure Lock & Key in Kirkwood, typically doesn’t get many requests from schools, but since the shooting in Connecticut, he’s received nearly a dozen calls about classroom locks.

“It’s definitely got everybody on edge,” he said.

The 20 first-graders and six educators killed Dec. 14 made the attack in Newtown, Conn., the second-worst school shooting in the country’s history, behind the massacre at Virginia Tech in 2007. But the April 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado spurred many of the security protocols in place today, buoyed by millions of dollars in federal grants for school safety announced a year after the killings.

President Barack Obama released his plan last week to make schools safer, including hiring more school resource officers, psychologists and counselors, as well as buying equipment such as security cameras and secure locking systems. He is proposing a program that would give schools \$150 million for the extra hires.

Missouri law says schools must have emergency plans in place but does not require regular reviews or drills. A bill filed in the state Senate would require schools to have all teachers and staff participate in an active shooter drill each year with police.

Locks are not the only measure districts have taken in the last month. A few schools have extra police officers. Mehlville added four who will work part time and focus their patrols at elementary schools. The cost will be \$35,000 for the rest of the school year.

And many have tightened security at all school entrances during the day, assessed their emergency plans and filed updated floor plans with police.

Edwardsville schools are getting panic alarms, and beginning next year, middle and high school students will be required to wear ID badges.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/education/some-local-schools-are-adding-locks-to-classroom-doors-since/article_17af8c3e-5b5d-56f2-b95f-47cda525921d.html