

“Following good concepts and guidance is very helpful for districts like mine who may be dealing with tragedies or for districts that don't want to have this happen to them. PASS is helping us rebuild and recover at the same time. I can't imagine the concept won't benefit all other districts. Thirty years of this and I have never felt this empowered.”

Guy Grace  
Director of Security and Emergency Planning  
Littleton, Colo., Public Schools

# A How-To Guide for School Security

## Help to Make Schools Safer

The Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) welcomes the participation of school officials, law enforcement, members of the security industry and other stakeholders as we work to enhance the protection of students, teachers and staff.

For more information, visit [www.passk12.org](http://www.passk12.org) or contact Ron Hawkins, director of industry relations for the Security Industry Association, at [rhawkins@securityindustry.org](mailto:rhawkins@securityindustry.org).

[www.passk12.org](http://www.passk12.org) | [@passk12](https://twitter.com/passk12)

The Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) was founded by the Security Industry Association ([www.securityindustry.org](http://www.securityindustry.org)) and the National Systems Contractors Association ([www.nasca.org](http://www.nasca.org)).



The PASS guidelines, which were developed by experts in the security industry in consultation with school officials and law enforcement, can be downloaded at [www.passk12.org](http://www.passk12.org).






# Safety and Security Guidelines for K-12 Schools

## from the Partner Alliance for Safer Schools

School administrators must answer two basic questions when planning to implement security measures:

1. **What should we do?**
2. **How do we pay for it?**

Since school officials are rarely experts in physical security, the answer to the first question is too often a haphazard combination of devices deployed in such a way that they never really become a security *solution*. This makes the second question more difficult to answer. A poorly designed system is an inefficient one, and this drives up costs while still failing to provide the desired level of security.



**The PASS guidelines** seek to help school officials navigate the challenges associated with deploying security equipment and implementing secure procedures.

To address these issues, the Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) developed its “Safety and Security Guidelines for K-12 Schools.” This document, now in its third edition and available at [www.passk12.org](http://www.passk12.org), seeks to help school officials navigate the challenges associated with deploying security equipment and implementing secure procedures. Developed by experts in the security industry with extensive input from school officials and law enforcement, the guidelines:



Analyze school security threats



Outline the legal, moral and other arguments for making investments in security



Examine the nature of risk, risk assessment and risk mitigation



Explain the importance of having “layers” of security



Offer specific recommendations for enhancing school security

The recommendations, consistent with the practice of implementing security-in-depth, describe solutions for various physical and technological “layers” in a school. Within each layer, the recommendations are divided into tiers, progressing from Tier 1, which provides a good baseline level of security, to Tier 4, which includes the most aggressive approaches to securing a facility.

The guidelines and the tiers provide administrators with tools they can use to gauge their risk level, identify their security needs and, after factoring in available resources, develop a security plan tailored to their school that incorporates practices and procedures vetted by experts.

Given the wide variations among the nation’s tens of thousands of schools, there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all approach to security. Whether officials at a particular school determine that meeting the standards of Tier 1 would be best for their situation, or whether they identify risk factors that compel a move to other tiers, the PASS guidelines can help to inform their decision-making and provide an appropriate level of security for students and staff.