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## What can Schools Learn from Corporate-Style Security?



**After several high-profile school shootings and the frenzied media coverage that has followed, there's no denying that school security is more concerning than ever to students, teachers, and parents.**

Pressure from local communities and social media to ramp up security in K-12 schools have grown considerably in the wake of the Parkland shooting in February 2018, which left 17 people dead and a further 17 injured.

In a rush to find solutions, schools across the country have pursued aggressive safety measures to prevent violence on their campuses – and as consequence, the [global schools and campus security market is expected to reach](#) \$2.54 billion by the end of 2023, a growth rate of 19.7%.

### **Too Much Panic**

Since Parkland, some schools are turning to unorthodox tactics, from bulletproof whiteboards to lockdown drills and simulated attacks. The National Association of School Psychologists has cautioned American schools against preparing for shootings with simulated attacks, as they could end up “traumatizing young students.”

Clearly, school security needs to be looked at, and evolve in tandem with the growing number of threats K-12 schools face, which we discuss in our previous articles.

## **Corporate Tactics**

Unlike school security, corporate safety takes a proactive approach that meets the needs of multiple stakeholders, including that of being a good neighbor. Subsequently, companies around the country have invested in dynamic, high technology, security systems to safeguard operations and maintain control.

Perhaps adopting a corporate-style approach would provide schools with robust, reliable and sensible solutions to tackling campus criminality, utilizing technology and reducing the fears many parents, students and teachers have. [The Partner Alliance for Safer Schools \(PASS\)](#) aims to do just that, through implementing corporate security measures across schooling environments.

### **But what are these corporate strategies and what are the benefits?**

#### **1: Lower Operational Costs**

A corporate security strategy usually starts with an integrated video security installation across the board – cameras outside elevators, toilets, next to trash receptacles, entrances, storage closets, you name it.

With subtle video security cameras acting as watchdogs, students are likely to feel more at ease and less intimidated– reducing crime from the inside-out.

#### **2: Mobile Access**

Heads of security at schools can't monitor every area all of the time. With cameras, you can have eyes where they need them most. This is something that corporate security has adopted for some time, with companies investing in remote access systems to monitor their production continuously and consistently, from anywhere.

Security chiefs can oversee every area of the school and monitor unusual activity and incidents through apps which enable access to video footage from their home computer, tablet or smartphone. This makes it easier to implement a rapid response.

This versatility means unattended sites can be safeguarded from a centralized location, which would provide heads of school security with peace of mind - even when they're off-campus.

#### **4: Improving Data Control**

Schools are just as vulnerable to cyber-attacks as large corporations.

The need to be vigilant around data collection and storage is heightened in the wake of recent hacking scandals – take [Uber's data crisis in 2016](#), where the personal information of 57 million users and 600,000 drivers were exposed.

However, this issue is especially concerning when children are at risk, including the threat from parents where there are custody disputes or the risk of kidnapping.

With corporate security systems, this is made all too easy. Enhanced access control provides a first line of defense to deter people from entering restricted areas, and clear confirmation of intrusion means less ambiguity – reducing false alarms and wasted time. Furthermore, such systems have nuanced methods of data collection, generating a clear audit trail and record of people accessing areas storing sensitive data.

#### **Are Schools Getting Safer?**

School safety, like the education of children, is a long-term enterprise. PASS realizes that not every school system, even those in the private sector, has the financial resources to invest in extensive security enhancements, yet they all face daily pressure to ensure that students are protected.

Here at Sabre, we can help you strike a balance between budgetary and security concerns. We work with you to clearly define your security system's objectives while implementing an integrated plan adhering to your budget. We can develop custom security solutions for your school and its locations, ensuring your security system works for you.

*Every school has different challenges. If you're looking for new ways to protect your campus, Sabre can help. Call us at 212-974-1700 or book a [free consultation here](#).*