



## **A Practical Guide to K-12**

Security Planning and  
Procurement Processes

**P**roviding a safe school environment is critical to the education process. Fortunately, security managers at many institutions – including not only schools but also hospitals, government and retail locations – are taking steps to improve their incident prevention and emergency response procedures. Often, the focus is on creating layers of protection using surveillance and access control systems. This increased attention on incident prevention is certain to help, and should lead to the next logical planning question: what happens if, despite those efforts, an incident nonetheless occurs?



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# ONE

Striking a Balance: Three Main Objectives of School Security

The security team at any school or facility must take a proactive stance monitoring both the external forces and internal social cues within the campus itself that can morph into a critical incident. The goal should be a systematic plan that prevents school violence and criminal acts through a holistic approach between physical security technology and solutions and behavioral prevention methods. A school security plan that is not proactive and fails to respond to campus threats is a failed plan.



A study released in February 2019 on averted and completed incidents recorded in the U.S. Department of Justice Averted School Violence (ASV) database, asserts that different types of attacks pose different prevention challenges.

According to the study, schools “have the chance to pick up on warning signs and intervene” with insiders like current or recent students or employees, but when the attacker is “someone with no connection to the school, the school usually has no way of anticipating the attack.” In the event, other prevention efforts fail, facility security measures are critical to protection, mitigation and response.

In formulating school security objectives, organizations like Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) and security solutions providers like Sielox have a singular focus to:

**1. Prevent incidents from happening and/or unfolding:** In support of the preventative approach, a very close tie-in with local authorities to share technology when and where possible is reshaping security conversations about K-12 schools. However, as most school administrators and security personnel continue to focus on lockdown systems as a first defense in an emergency situation, one of the most critical components of an effective emergency response plan is often overlooked — communications. When combined with a lockdown solution, a well-conceived and properly implemented communications solution can provide responders with real-time information to help isolate threats, initiate the most appropriate response, and potentially save lives.

The Sielox CLASS™ (Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System) is an award-winning Emergency Notification and Response Solution that allows teachers and administrators to report incidents and the current status at their location and receive instructions on how to react by either vacating the facility or hunkering down. This can result in a lockdown depending on what and how an access control system is deployed at the location.



**2. Control incidents to ensure the safety of those directly impacted:**

Because today's advanced security technologies are mostly network-centric, managing threats in many school districts is done in conjunction with local law enforcement that may be monitoring for cyber threats being transmitted

*"CLASS can provide status reporting that first responders can use to assess and determine the best course of action, as well as communications to relay specific instructions to occupants."*

overtly or covertly via social media. This external cyber monitoring has direct linkages to the school's physical security and is part of a proactive approach with situational knowledge; it can come together in an integrated fashion for the purpose of school safety.

CLASS can provide status reporting that first responders can use to assess and determine the best course of action, as well as communications to relay specific instructions to occupants.

- 3. Resolve incident as quickly as possible:** According to PASS guidelines ([PASSK12.org](http://PASSK12.org)), staff responsible for school safety and security need district leadership at the superintendent and board levels to build holistic safety programs. Coordination with executive management at the district level is integral to the successful development and adoption of school safety processes, plans, technologies and procedures and for ensuring these measures are updated for consistency with evolving best practices. Most school safety measures have district-wide components and responsibilities. It is critical for district leadership to understand the fundamental link between readiness for day-to-day emergencies and disaster preparedness. School districts that are well prepared for individual emergencies involving students or staff members are more likely to be prepared for complex events like a community disaster or an active shooter incident.



# TWO

Proper Due Diligence  
Ensured With Critical  
Security Assessment

In order to meet the security and safety challenges on a school campus, all those charged with protecting it must possess an understanding of those threats – both perceived and real. The first step in developing a comprehensive security plan should involve a risk assessment, which is a prerequisite for any decisions regarding the deployment of security solutions to address the potential for active threats. There are several avenues to take when putting together a team of assessment partners, which include:

- Local police and fire officials (ability varies by jurisdiction)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisers
- FEMA
- Independent consultants
- Security design consultants/systems integrators
- Internal assessment using free assessment tools
- Assessment by local subject matter experts assembled by districts

Regardless of what method is chosen, it's important to understand that risk assessment and mitigation can never eliminate risk; however, risks can be identified, measured and reduced.

Employing a collaborative approach to school security planning is crucial when the team starts to address the physical threats of entry and egress points, potential perimeter vulnerability breaches, insider threats and response methods. In most new school construction, architects and security consultants are opting for a single point of entry, which provides a chokepoint for incoming traffic and allows for comprehensive security screening, visitor vetting and efficient staff distribution.

Many campus designs are also integrating the practice of security and crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) that blends the natural perimeter defenses of the campus like man-made obstacles such as decorative planters, landscaping, perimeter boundary definition and security-enhanced traffic patterns into and on campus grounds to curtail possible shooter attacks with enhanced security design for the building's exterior spaces and interior corridors and classrooms.



# THREE

Have a Cohesive Plan

When it comes to planning for the inevitable school security emergency, it is prudent to create a roadmap that considers the various threats, what the action items are to mitigate those threats and how these plans coordinate with first responders. Each added layer of security becomes a balancing act between preventing criminal acts, improving response times and making sure your campus doesn't feel like a prison.

Many of these plans include the concept of a "lockdown" situation to thwart an intruder or attacker and to protect the occupants from harm. However, it is equally important to possess a clear plan of action once that lockdown has been initiated. During a lockdown, first responders and authorities on the scene work to confirm and contain the threat, then neutralize it. Depending on the specific circumstances, they may take action to evacuate some or all occupants to safety, while the threat is still active or when the threat has ended.



*"There is no "one size fits all" protocol for lockdowns and evacuations that works for every school or organization."*



Planning and practice are key elements in any lockdown and evacuation plan, requiring that teachers, administrators, students and first responders are all on the same page and communicate procedures and adhere to them during an emergency situation. There is no "one size fits all" protocol for lockdowns and evacuations that works for every school or organization. Each plan must reflect differences in building layout, proximity to other buildings or residences, the capabilities of local first responders and be broad-based in its approach. Developing a security/safety emergency plan that is limited in scope and one that lacks focus of all potential threats can cause serious issues in a real-world incident.

# FOUR

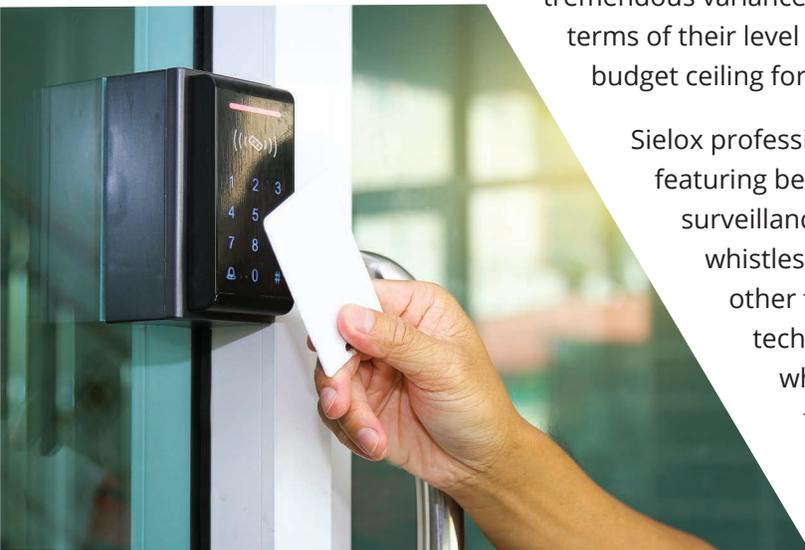
Solve the Technology  
Question

There has been a dynamic shift in how many school districts have sought to integrate technology solutions into their environments. Maintaining the human element in the security and safety plan is important, but so is selecting solutions that are simple to use and that are cost-effective.

*“Sielox professionals have interfaced with schools featuring best-in-breed integrated access and surveillance systems with all the bells and whistles to schools that have literally no security other than locks on their doors.”*

What if your school or school district is starting from square one with regards to technology implementation? How can you ensure a smooth transition from a school facility with little to no technology to one that has an expanding technology solution with an eye on more advanced solutions in the future? Security consultants and systems integrators understand that there is a tremendous variance from one school/district to the next in terms of their level of sophistication and their respective budget ceiling for technology-based security solutions.

Sielox professionals have interfaced with schools featuring best-in-breed integrated access and surveillance systems with all the bells and whistles to schools that have literally no security other than locks on their doors. These technology conversations vary significantly when you are moving a school/district from nothing to a solution like CLASS as a stand-alone emergency notification/status system to a more complex integration conversation.



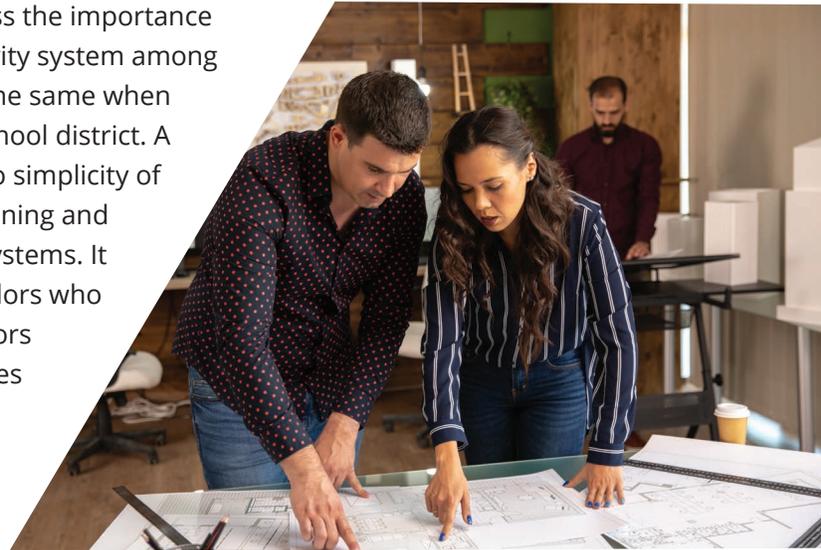
# FIVE

Taking the Technology  
Deep Dive

Like any project, success is based on having an achievable goal in mind and assembling the team to get a school there. For school security projects, enlisting the counsel of knowledgeable consultants and experienced systems integrators can put the venture on solid ground. A good integrator will know your pain points and what budget constraints are in play and strive to be a trusted partner in the project from the early design stage through technology implementation and training.

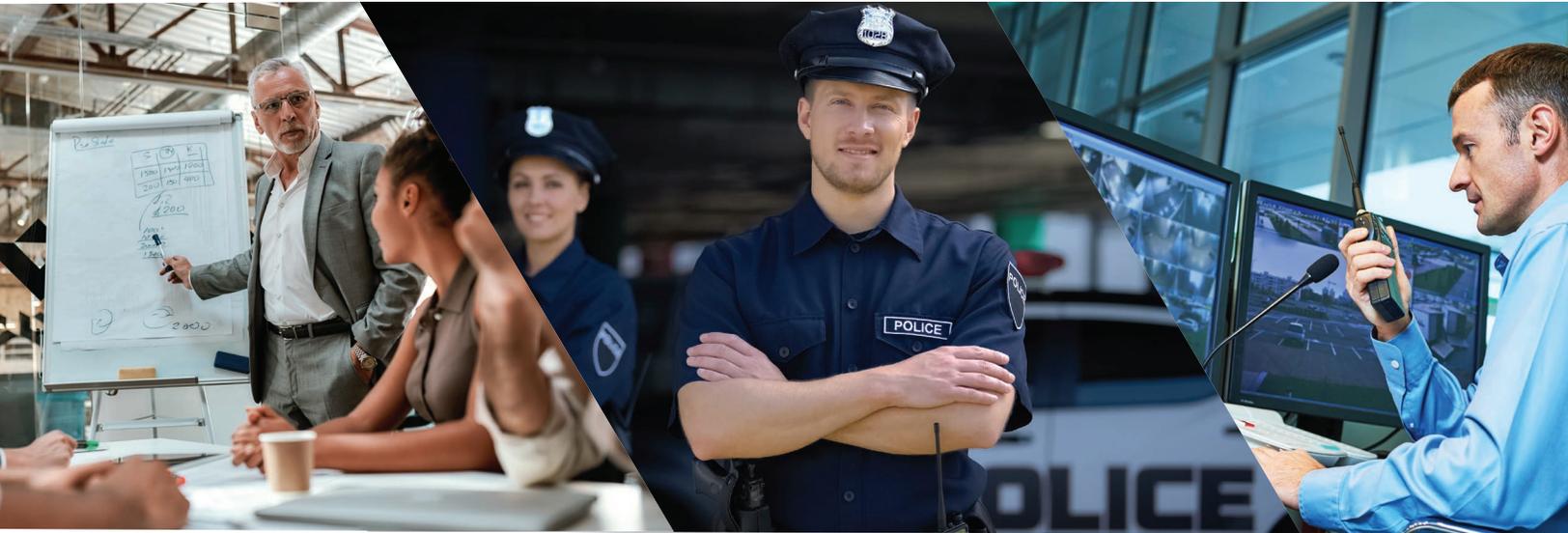
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Many consultants and integrators stress the importance of employing a common physical security system among multiple campus locations and doing the same when it comes to multiple buildings in the school district. A common-systems approach can lead to simplicity of operations, conformity and ease of training and help in-house staff maintaining their systems. It is also a benefit to the technology vendors who work in collaboration with the integrators when the end-user is ready for upgrades and systems expansion.



# SIX

How To Integrate  
Technology and People



According to PASS, creating a safety team that includes key stakeholders in the K-12 environment is the first step in integrating school project team members with the technology roadmap. The process of forming a team should be led by an experienced security director if a district is fortunate enough to have full-time staff in this position, or a staff member who has security as a primary responsibility. Start with a basic team including:

- Local police, EMTs and fire officials
- Security director (or person in charge of security)
- School administrators (across functions such as operations, mental health, secretarial and human resources)
- Security/systems integrator and/or consultant
- IT director

*“Creating a safety team that includes key stakeholders in the K-12 environment is the first step in integrating school project team members with the technology roadmap.”*

This team must be given the flexibility to form the district’s safety processes, plans, technologies and procedures. Having a team that represents a broad range of responsibilities and expertise helps to address all the potential hazards a school district may face. Each safety team member should understand the layered approach to security outlined in school security resources and material provided by consultants.

# SEVEN

The Layered Approach to  
School Security



The PASS guidelines stress a district-wide approach to layered school security, stating that leadership and coordination at the district level facilitate a successful roadmap to developing and adopting school safety processes, plans, technologies and procedures and for ensuring these measures are updated for consistency with evolving best practices. Most school safety measures have district-wide components or responsibilities. They usually include:

**Property Perimeter Layer:** The property perimeter layer begins at the school property boundary and extends to the parking lot. This area includes

playgrounds, sporting fields and other facilities that are often used by the public after school business hours end. The physical security of a school facility begins at the property perimeter, where the most outwardly visible security deterrents to an external threat can be implemented.

*“The PASS guidelines stress a district-wide approach to layered school security, stating that leadership and coordination at the district level facilitate a successful roadmap to developing and adopting school safety processes, plans, technologies and procedures and for ensuring these measures are updated for consistency with evolving best practices”*

**Parking Lot Perimeter Layer:** Within the parking lot perimeter, staff, students and visitors park their vehicles or arrive and depart by bus or other means. Just like the property perimeter layer, the parking lot perimeter should always be clearly defined. In many cases, this area is where schools experience the most safety issues.

**Building Perimeter Layer:** The building perimeter layer begins with school grounds adjacent to the exterior structure of a building and consists of the perimeter of a building itself, including the exterior doors and windows of a school. Securing a building perimeter can range from simple to complex, especially for middle schools or high schools with



multiple buildings/open campuses. Key safety and security functions take place within this layer, as it encompasses all areas where people enter and exit a school building.

**Classroom/Interior Perimeter Layer:** The classroom/interior perimeter layer consists of a school's entire interior, including not only classrooms but also gymnasiums, cafeterias, media centers, etc. This is both the last layer of defense against external threats and, often, the first protection against internal threats to student, staff and visitor safety.

When it comes to layering the proper security technology, schools often invest in solutions that help them deter potential threats with wireless or magnetic door locks, intercoms and basic video surveillance. Integrating all of these systems with all of the layers defined by PASS guidelines onto a single software control platform can be an expensive endeavor, but is not necessary to achieve a layered, integrated solution. Using simple inputs and outputs with an emergency notification solution like Sielox CLASS provides an affordable and easy deployment solution.



# EIGHT

## Assessing Key and Core School Security Technologies

Now that the project team has completed its security/risk assessments and established a layered security baseline, administrators can effectively evaluate their security infrastructure, assess their procedural and technology shortcomings in order to prioritize investments and maximize the school's security posture.

Consultants and integrators agree that the foundation of an optimum security blueprint to a proactive school district will usually consist of 12 essential technology elements. These core technologies range from basic key and access control options to video surveillance and analytics. Here is a condensed overview of what PASS highlights as the top dozen:

1. Mechanical Door Locks
2. Stand-Alone and Wireless Access Control Locks
3. Access Control Systems
4. Radio Communications
5. Video Management Systems
6. Visitor Management Systems
7. Video Intercom Buzz-In System
8. Motion Detectors, Door Contacts and Beam Detectors
9. Duress/Panic Buttons
10. Remote and Mobile Lockdown Capability  
(wearable pendants or other technologies)
11. School District Security Operations Center  
(particularly in large districts)
12. Emergency/Mass Notification Communication Systems



# NINE

Access Control is the  
Foundational Security  
Technology



Building out a layered security model for a K-12 school environment considers all factors including open spaces and open systems, budget restraints and the human element as it relates to security policy and procedure. At the core of the Sielox philosophy is the emergency notification and status system, access control software and controllers.

Access control systems are no longer just concerned with card access. These systems are the backbone of a school or district's entire physical security system. Effective and efficient access control will unify other safety and security technologies such as video, intrusion alarms, emergency communications and fire/life safety devices so that they can be integrated into a holistic security plan. A unified security system is a force multiplier that empowers personnel district-wide to have a hand in helping keep the schools safe.

*"Access control solutions provide the basis for layered security solutions that do far more than simply allow electronic access using credentials."*

Although there seems to be constant debate among security professional whether video surveillance or access control is the predominant platform when implementing an integrated security solution, there is no disputing that access control systems certainly dominate the landscape in terms of the sheer number of systems deployed, the size and scale of deployments, and actual daily engagement by users. Access control solutions provide the basis for layered security solutions that do far more than simply allow electronic access using credentials. They provide a complete record of who has entered a facility, which areas within the facility they accessed (or attempted to access), and how long they stayed.

In most systems, electronic door locks are connected to a centralized access control system allowing them to be remotely monitored and locked in the event of an emergency or incident. Assigning different access permissions for employees, visitors and first responders provides even greater levels of protection and tracking. Entry control points can be easily established to only allow authorized





individuals initial access to a facility or specific areas within the facility. An added versatility of an access control solution is the ability to authorize individuals to manage doors and alarm points that can also be integrated with visitor management solutions to check the background of each visitor, automatically post watch lists, and provide specific access privileges based on time, date and location.

*“The Sielox option showcases the ability to integrate emergency notification and communications with the access control system enhancing protection and improving the overall physical security posture.”*

The Sielox option showcases the ability to integrate emergency notification and communications with the access control system enhancing protection and improving the overall physical security posture. Integrated emergency notification and communications solutions increase real-time situational awareness that in an emergency situation can quickly secure a facility and implement the appropriate responses – with or without the added data provided from video surveillance.



# TEN

Integrated Access Control  
Solutions the Sielox Way



Sielox addresses the need for integrated emergency lockdown and notification capabilities by layering various systems to provide comprehensive and scalable solutions. This layered approach allows school administrators, security professionals and first responders to react quickly and gather as much information as quickly and easily as possible. The technology at the core of the Sielox solution is CLASS™ (Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System). CLASS is an award-winning Emergency Notification and Response Solution that is accessible anywhere and anytime using a PC, tablet or smartphone over WAN, LAN, high-speed cellular network or Wi-Fi.

When CLASS is layered with **Sielox Pinnacle™ Advanced Access Control Solution**, it provides a comprehensive and highly effective first line of defense that can lock down a facility at moment's notice. The combination of CLASS with wireless lock integration from Allegion and ASSA ABLOY results in the immediate physical lockdown of any or all interior and perimeter doors.

### The Sielox Pinnacle Access Control Platform

The Pinnacle platform has become an access control system standard in the security industry for its consistent performance and reliability. It is a feature-rich, event-management solution that is scalable and can accommodate most any access control application from enterprise-level to retail and small businesses. Pinnacle is also applicable in stand-alone buildings and multi-tenant facilities.

The platform features ease of use, unlimited user expandability, a wide range of administrator settings, and compatibility with leading OEM locks, cards, and card readers. Other features and capabilities include:

- Web Client
- Event Management
- Photo ID Badging
- Smart Card
- Elevator Control
- Parking Control
- Visitor Management
- Video Verification



## Sielox CLASS (Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System)

Sielox CLASS™ is an award-winning Emergency Notification and Response Solution that dramatically improves situational awareness, saving time and potentially saving lives. A browser-based application, CLASS is accessible anywhere and anytime using a Desktop, Tablet or Mobile Device over a WAN, LAN, WIFI, or high-speed cellular network (3G/4G/LTE) connection.

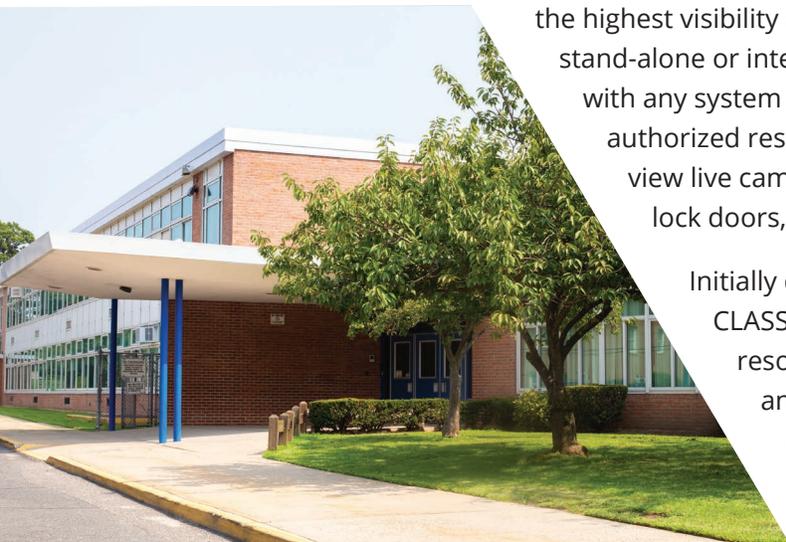


In the case of a security incident and lockdown, Sielox CLASS provides vital situational awareness to responders so they can manage the situation and avoid walking blindly into hazardous situations. Administrators, Responders or any designated individuals can issue an emergency alert to notify responders of conditions in real-time while communicating status via one of five programmable alert levels. Occupants within the facility can then report status at their specific location enabling responders to view detailed facility maps on a room-by-room basis with color-coded conditions that update in real-time as the situation evolves.

*“CLASS is designed for stand-alone or integrated system operation. It can integrate with any system or device with an IP address providing authorized responders with the additional ability to view live cameras, change access control permissions, lock doors, and more.”*

A chat feature enables two-way communications between occupants and first responders to exchange detailed information or instructions. CLASS can also issue messages with response instructions specific to each alert level via email or text and override any PC on the network to ensure the highest visibility of alert status. CLASS is designed for stand-alone or integrated system operation. It can integrate with any system or device with an IP address providing authorized responders with the additional ability to view live cameras, change access control permissions, lock doors, and more.

Initially designed for the education market, CLASS is also proving to be a highly effective resource for office, municipal, warehouse, and manufacturing facilities across a range of markets to manage all hazards, including threatening situations, inclement weather and more.



## NJ High School Deploys Sielox CLASS™ Emergency Response System



Sterling High School is a comprehensive regional public high school and school district serving approximately 1,000 students in ninth through twelfth grades. The school features a full complement of scholastic and athletic activities in addition to a wide range of continually updated academic programs. The campus comprises two buildings with approximately 70 classrooms and 10 administrative offices. Video surveillance cameras are located on the building exterior and throughout the school and students, faculty and staff wear identification badges. Visitors are not allowed into the building without an appointment and all visitors must report to the general office upon arrival.

Sterling High School also has a full-time resource officer from the Somerdale Police Department on board. These are just some of the pro-active measures the school has in place to help ensure a safe and secure environment for the 1,200-1,500 individuals who are in the school every day. In keeping with these security initiatives, Sterling High School recently advanced its security to the next level with the implementation of the Sielox CLASS (Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System).

### Solution

Sielox CLASS enhances awareness and communication in the event of an emergency. Designed for use in the K12 and higher education environment, the system provides real-time classroom status, updates and notifications to administrators and first responders using graphical maps, email and text messaging to assist in making split-second decisions in the event of an incident or developing the situation. The dynamic graphical map provides the real-time status of up to right color conditions.



The Sterling configuration consists of green (Safe/secure); pink Somerdale Police Patrol Car (Morning Check-in); yellow (Danger outside the building); blue (Medical emergency); orange (Disturbance); and red (Imminent Danger). Per procedures established by school Superintendent Mark Napoleon, teachers, staff and the local police department have all been given access to the system. Teachers are required to sign in to CLASS at the beginning of the school day and label their room "green", indicating it is safe.

# ELEVEN

Making The Security Transition



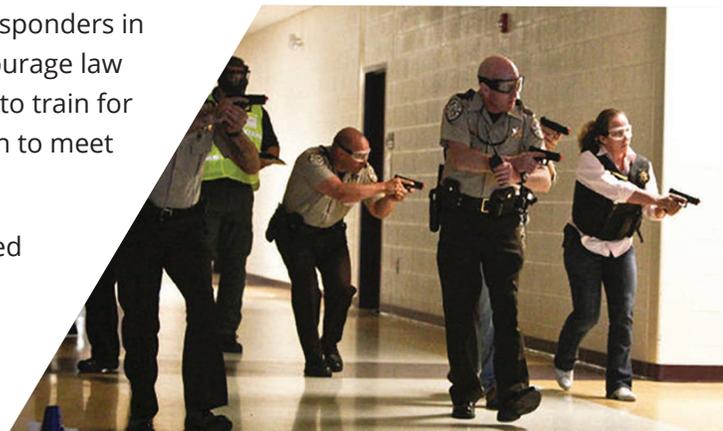
A solid and sensible security plan, from both a technology and budgetary standpoint, will go a long way in getting all stakeholders on board when it comes to actual implementation. Schools must constantly review their emergency management plans, and administrators must work closely with first responders to ensure that emergency plans include different scenarios including fire, active shooter scenarios, and natural disasters. Regular review of emergency management plans and drills, along with adherence to effective security procedures are critical to mitigating risk and critical to ensuring that teachers, administrators and first responders are prepared in the event of a crisis.

Implementing a school security strategy that can offer physical protection and situational awareness tools to maintain a proactive stance must always be weighed against the delicate balance of an open and nurturing environment typical of a school setting.

*“Regular review of emergency management plans and drills, along with adherence to effective security procedures are critical to mitigating risk and critical to ensuring that teachers, administrators and first responders are prepared in the event of a crisis.”*

Effective security is intended to mitigate risk, though it is not foolproof. However, schools can improve their odds not only with technology but consistent training and communication. Training practices should:

- Include local law enforcement and first responders in planning your training exercises and encourage law enforcement and emergency responders to train for an active shooter scenario at your location to meet mandatory laws, policies and procedures.
- Train staff to know and follow standardized procedures in an emergency and incorporate security into employee training programs.



- Provide security information and training to all students.
- Conduct regular exercises for active shooters. For years children have been exposed to fire, earthquake, and even bomb drills. The most effective way to train your staff to respond to an active shooter situation is to conduct mock active shooter training.

*“Recent research shows that stress among teachers, staff and students is emerging as the new normal because of security threats associated with active shooters and other outside dangers.”*

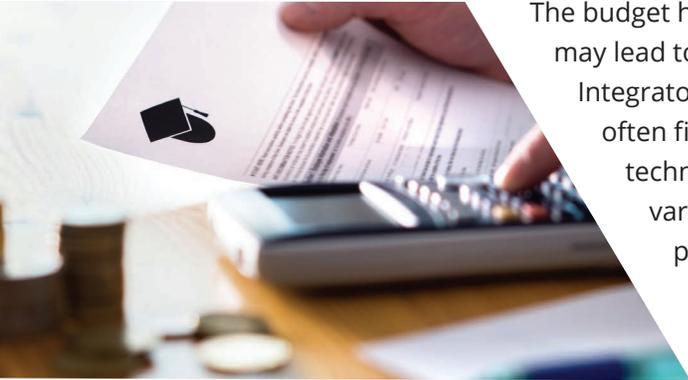
Recent research shows that stress among teachers, staff and students is emerging as the new normal because of security threats associated with active shooters and other outside dangers. A school district and its related community can be overwhelmed, distraught and fearful following a violent event or active shooter alert.

One consultant states that effective intervention and support around school shootings should be local endeavors. The best way to support community members' needs is to work through the school, local providers and agencies. It is important for the district to develop relationships/ mutual agreements with other stakeholders before an incident takes place. Note that each school and community have their own culture. Crisis management providers must understand this culture before they start working with the community.



# TWELVE

How To Navigate The  
Procurement Process



The budget hurdles that constrain many school districts may lead to less than stellar outcomes. Administrators, Integrators and security consultants working with them often find themselves looking at multi-layered security technology that is purchased separately and from various vendors due to low-bid procurement practices. This often creates a lack of real ownership of the total system architecture and can result in weak system deployments and ongoing management.

Sielox recognizes the significant challenges posed in the education space. Beginning a school security project without a trusted integration partner and if needed, a qualified, experienced consultant puts the seamless integration of all the installed systems in jeopardy. Couple the technical issues with a confusing bid process and you wind up with a Rubik’s Cube puzzle of flowery tech product sheets and government red tape. The procurement and partnership aspects of a school’s security project need to be revisited by those schools/districts that are looking for integrated solutions and seek to form technology partnerships that are consistent and serve their long-term needs. If not, these districts could be stuck riding out bond programs that take years and are based on technology solutions that are sure to be outdated within three to five years of deployment.

*“The process can be eased by dealing with a security solutions provider that is able to offer its product portfolio and services through the PEPPM program.”*

### Real-World Procurement Issues and PEPPM Solutions

As school districts and school administrators shop for security solutions, procurement roadblocks are an issue when considering the implementation of an integrated solution at a facility that may feature pre-installed systems that are disparate and not capable of a retrofit or upgrade solution. The process can be eased by dealing with a security solutions provider that is able to offer its product portfolio and services through the PEPPM program.



PEPPM is a technology cooperative purchasing program established in 1982. It is a program and service of the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit 16 (CSIU). The PEPPM purchasing cooperative has a proven record of serving school districts and other public agencies across all the United States with purchasing contracts competitively bid under the high standards expected for public-sector procurement. The program is administered by a group of purchasing professionals who have successfully managed thousands of purchasing contracts awarded to hundreds and hundreds of national vendors.



The CSIU Board of Directors awarded the PEPPM contract to Sielox in 2016 after the company had gone through stringent bid procedures demanded by local agencies and school districts that wanted to ensure fair, open and transparent competition. PEPPM provides several tools to help buyers find and select products that best suit their needs while offering potential savings in the form of piggy-backable, bid-protected procurement contracts.

The extensive list of Sielox products available through the program led by the patented **CLASS™ (Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System)** software solution, in addition to many other Sielox products listed on the PEPPM schedule including **Pinnacle access control**, the **1700 controller**, cards and readers, wireless locks, power supplies, monitors and a full range of video surveillance products.

More information about PEPPM contracts is available at [peppm.org](http://peppm.org).



## The Upper Township School District Employs CLASS to Layer Security



The Upper Township School District (UTSD) is a comprehensive community public school district, serving students in pre-school through eighth grade from Upper Township, in Cape May County, New Jersey, United States. Located in Petersburg, New Jersey, the UTSD wanted to strengthen classroom and building security by upgrading the locks on classroom and perimeter doors. Their options at the time included an interior classroom mechanical lockset; a wireless lockset that was not online; and an online communication wireless lockset.

The online wireless lockset was the desired choice for UTSD because it allowed the school to be locked down immediately and remotely. The problem, however, was that the cost of deploying wireless locks for more than 130 doors throughout the three buildings was significantly more than UTSD had budgeted.

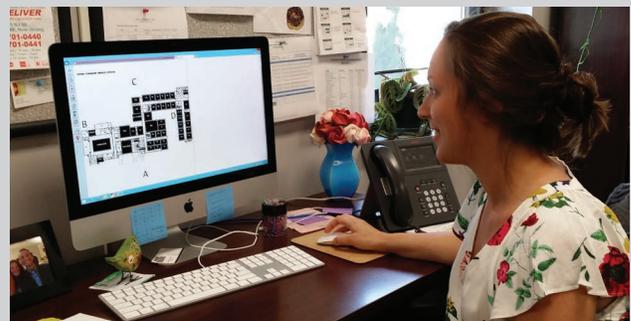
### Solution

During UTSD's search for a more affordable solution, new wireless lock technology became available and at a cost that was approximately 50% less. The savings allowed UTSD to move forward with the project that now had the capability for a layered approach to school security. This included installing Sielox's Pinnacle access control system for control of interior and perimeter doors and the 1700 intelligent controller integrated with the new Schlage NDE

wireless locks. The system was designed and built by CM3 Building Solutions, a security channel partner with Sielox.

"We were looking for the best solution to handle a lockdown situation at the three schools in our district," said Vincent Palmieri, Superintendent, Upper Township Schools. "Given the fact that we also wanted the ability to lock the perimeter and interior doors of each school, Sielox had the complete solution for our needs."

Sielox's CLASS (Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System) emergency notification and lockdown solution were also installed. CLASS provides real-time classroom status, updates and notifications to administrators and first responders using graphical maps, email, and text messaging to assist in making split-second decisions in the event of an incident or developing the situation.



"We were blown away by CLASS and how it works with the locks. With this layered security system in place, we can lock down the building, change alert levels when needed and communicate with local law enforcement in real-time," continued Palmieri.

Sielox's layered access control and lockdown systems have been successfully deployed in schools across the country. Products are designed and manufactured in the U.S.A. and meet or exceed any user requirement from entry-level to enterprise-wide systems.

As teachers move from one classroom to another, they again sign in and follow the same procedure, enabling the front office to know the location of faculty and the situation at all times.

“Implementation of CLASS has been a huge success because everyone, law enforcement included, is on board and committed,” said Mark Napoleon, Superintendent. “It’s also a very easy system to use. It required almost no learning curve, which also contributed to acceptance.”

Sterling High School has used the system twice since going operational. The first time was an incident in the classroom when a student would not leave as directed. Without confrontation or making a call to the front office, the teacher simply activated the disturbance symbol on the computer and assistance was able to come immediately. The second incident involved a situation outside the building that warranted the “lockout” crisis to be activated. In both incidents, the CLASS system helped mitigate potentially dangerous situations.

As the school moves forward with their security initiatives, they intend to tie new operations into



CLASS. For instance, it is currently integrated with an access control system to remotely lock exterior doors. In the future, they will have a full lockdown of all doors, including the interior. It is interfaced to their paging system via the Sielox AC-1700 access control system outputs to trigger pre-programmed announcements and messages. Planned integration with existing hallway motion sensors will “track” intruders on the floorplan maps.

“Compared to other systems, the price and capabilities of CLASS gave us more value,” adds Superintendent Napoleon. “It was a great way to go in making the school safer and more secure.”



## About Sielox

Sielox Layered Security Systems, including access control systems, crisis notification, response systems, and intelligent access controllers, provide a smart way to protect people, property, and assets with the highest levels of performance, reliability, and cost-efficiency.

Since 1979, Sielox has built its expertise working with integration partners and end-users in all types of facilities. Our "Made in USA" lockdown solutions include the AnyWare™ Browser-Based Access Control Solution, CLASS™ Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System, 1700 Intelligent Controller, and Pinnacle™ Advanced Access Control Software integrated with leading manufacturer wireless locks.

Sielox is a listed vendor with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and PEPPM which can be used for State, County, and Municipal Government purchasing.

## Contact Us

info@Sielox.com  
856.861.4570  
Sielox.com