



Door Security +
Safety Professionals

A photograph of four diverse elementary school children walking in a school hallway. From left to right: a boy in a green jacket and blue shirt, a girl in a yellow and white striped shirt and blue jeans, a boy in a pink sweater and blue jeans, and a girl in a white sweater and blue jeans. They are all wearing backpacks and holding books or folders. The hallway has a brick wall on the right and a polished floor.

DHI School Security & Safety Policy Principles

To protect every student, in every situation, every day!

Our Belief and Our Passion

We are proud of the fact that for over 100 years our industry has protected students, teachers and staff in schools across the country. We are the experts of the doorways that provide the security and safety of the people in those buildings. This requires designing and providing door openings that adhere to building, fire, life safety codes and standards along with disability laws that have been developed by many stakeholders over a century and designed specifically for schools to protect lives in various emergency conditions.

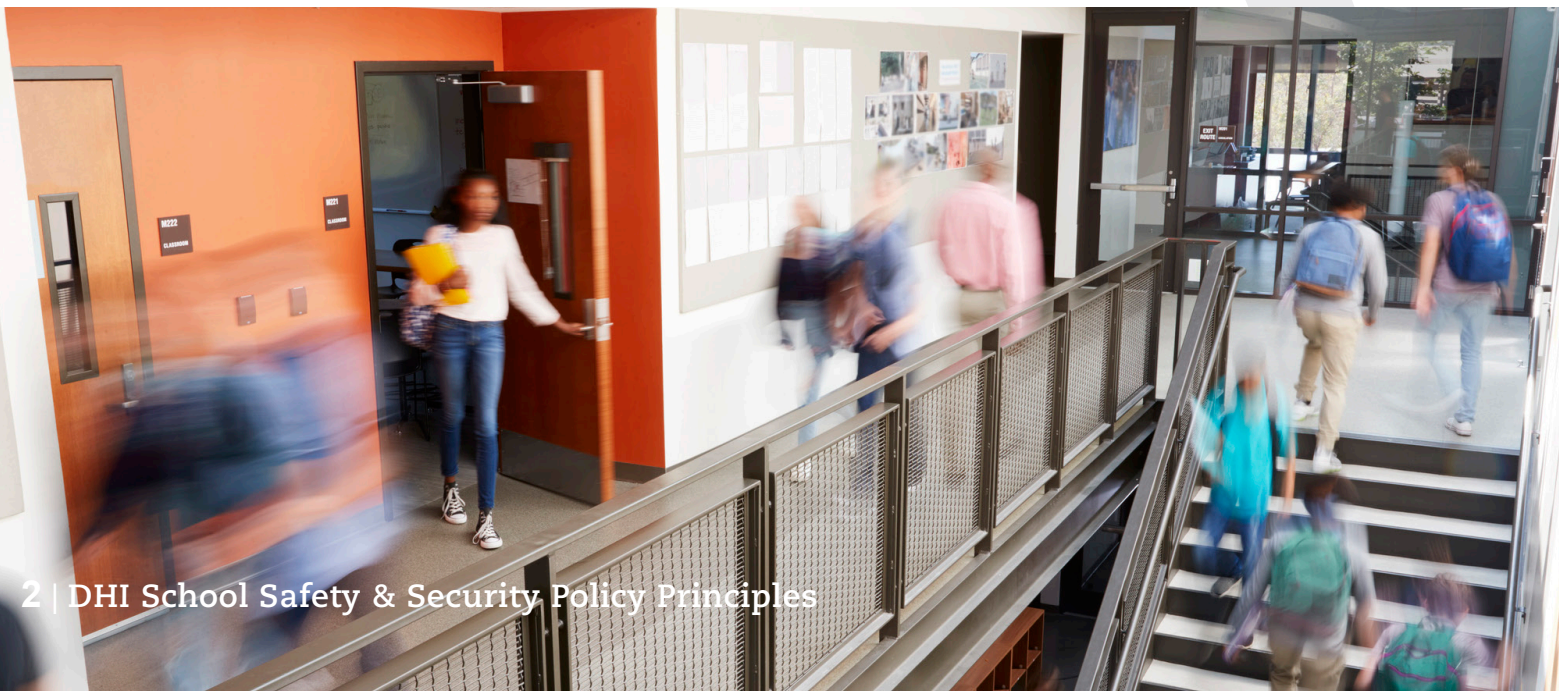
We passionately believe in the following core principles that underpin our specific school policies, **to protect every student, in every situation, every day:**

- We believe building and fire codes and standards are the cornerstone of the building process and should dictate all life safety and security solutions.
- We believe single motion to egress a room, part of the codes, ensures the safety of building occupants.
- We believe the American with Disabilities Act should be adhered to with all door assemblies.

- We believe that every new product and design solution that is introduced as a result of a tragic event should be validated and meet appropriate codes and standards.
- We believe all life safety and security solutions for door assemblies should be designed professionally, be tested, and provide proven results.

Our members are experts in their field. DHI has proudly served door security and safety professionals and the dynamic companies they represent in the non-residential construction industry for 45 years. Our association provides technical training and certifications that are highly respected marks of our industry expertise. Our training takes years to master and culminates in very rigorous examinations. This is because our solutions save lives during tragic events and are held to the highest of standards.

As an industry, we know from years of witnessing disastrous events, that codes, standards and disability laws are effective when they underpin the design of door openings. Unfortunately, when not properly employed the result can be devastating.



Development of Codes

Over the last century, codes and standards have been developed by experts from various disciplines within the construction ecosystem, often based on their experiences with building fires and other disastrous situations. These codes and standards are the cornerstone of the building process and are time tested to provide results for the occupants. That is why they have been adopted by thousands of jurisdictions nationwide.

There are proven methods of providing safety and security in an education setting that have been developed for decades that are code compliant and provide secure accessibility for everyone. Being safe in a secure space should never require “barricading people in” when they need out. This proven lifesaving approach creates a safe environment that keeps the assailants out while not impeding first responders or “locking in” the victims.

School Security and Locking Hardware

Today, school safety and security is top of mind for parents, students, education professionals, law enforcement and public officials across the country. There are real active safety concerns in our nation’s schools that can occur at a moment’s notice on any given day. These threats include student violence, fire hazards and outside influences.

We support and encourage schools to adopt safety and security protocols that utilize the best practices for door and hardware solutions to protect the nation’s students and invest in their future, while also protecting school teachers, administrators and staff.

DHI, along with other security and industry professionals, agree that the best approach to school security is a layered approach with each layer providing specific components designed to deter, detect and delay entry or access to a

campus, the buildings on the campus and the classrooms within the buildings.

School systems and local communities have an obligation to safely and securely protect all occupants of their schools.

- DHI **recommends** that school systems consider adopting recognized physical security and life safety guidelines such as the Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) Guidelines released by the security industry.
- DHI **supports efforts** by school systems to invest in their security and safety by using independently tested and certified door locking hardware and access control solutions to protect all occupants of a school building.
- DHI **encourages** the use of secure vestibules as main entry points into school buildings in order to assess visitors before granting entry to the building.
- DHI **promotes** safety behind a closed door by insisting classroom doors must be locked at all times or be capable of being locked quickly and easily without opening the door.
- DHI **recognizes** no one should ever be locked into a classroom; therefore, free, immediate and safe egress must be available to all occupants regardless of age, developmental level, ability or disability.
- DHI **believes** classrooms must be accessible from the outside to ensure access to the classroom by staff or first responders.
- DHI **advocates** that all door assemblies must be code compliant. All school doors, including classroom doors, are required to meet federal accessibility laws, as well as building, fire and life safety code requirements.

Informed Smart Decisions with Compliant Products

The increase in school violence nationwide has rightfully brought heightened concerns over school safety and security for students, teachers, administrators, staff and the surrounding community. In some situations, communities are making rash decisions to quickly secure a school after major incidents, which can result in unintended consequences. This often involves the purchase of makeshift and untested products that are not code compliant or ADA accessible.

These devices can potentially cause multiple security and safety risks, like preventing egress during a fire, being used by violent individuals to lock students in a room to cause harm, preventing first responders' access to the room, or other dramatic scenarios.

- DHI supports school systems efforts to install safety and security hardware they see fit, as long as it is code compliant, ADA accessible, and the solutions are recommended by qualified experts such as Architectural Hardware Consultants (AHC) or Door Hardware Consultants (DHC), among others industry recognized credentials.
- DHI recommends school systems and parent-teacher associations (PTAs) to thoroughly research all door hardware solutions they are considering purchasing to ensure fire and building code compliance as well as accessibility.
- DHI urges school systems to not purchase solutions that jeopardize the fire rating of the doors or voids the warranty of the doors and/or hardware.

Windows in and Adjacent to Doors

Glass has proven to be the weak link in otherwise secure entry points of buildings

and classrooms. While the ability to observe the inside of a classroom through a window in a frame or door is necessary, it is important to protect that glass so that a breach of the window does not allow access into the room or to the lock itself to enter the room.

- DHI encourages the use of ballistic or security glass and films for use at exterior doors and sidelites to help prevent entry into any school building.
- DHI recommends that security glass or films be installed on classroom doors and shelter in place room doors with glass to delay or deter entry by breaching the glass.
- DHI supports the use of blinds or temporary coverings to obscure visibility into a secure room during a lockdown.
- Encourages funding for school safety.
- School safety and security is not something that is solved with a single plan or device. The nation's schools need adequate funding for educating students, but also to provide safety and security to the inhabitants of the school's buildings.
- The safety of our nation's school systems should not struggle to provide adequate protective measures. Federal, state and local governments must take an active role in ensuring adequate funding to provide the best safety and security hardware to protect our nation's students and school professionals.
- DHI calls on lawmakers to provide adequate funding to schools to perform safety audits and to purchase reliable, code compliant and ADA-accessible door security and safety hardware.
- DHI urges local school systems to discuss school safety and security needs with lawmakers to establish an ongoing dialogue regarding the budget needs of securing schools.

Professionals at the Table

Door openings are an important component of any Emergency Management Plan. Whether a school is under a lockdown, shelter-in-place or emergency evacuation order, doors and locking devices play a critical role.

For the most effective strategies for school safety and security, it is necessary to build a team of stakeholders from various communities and disciplines.

Creating a security team of experts from all stakeholders that may need to respond to an incident, along with security and life safety experts, is key to an effective plan.

Comprehensive security plans, and the policies and procedures created to implement them, form the foundation of school safety and security. Without proper policies and procedures in place, it is impossible to successfully use security technology and other security measures, regardless of how advanced they may be.

- DHI supports involving first responders, security-certified experts, door and hardware and access control certified experts, and architects along with school administrators, school engineers, staff and volunteers to both develop and maintain the security and safety plans.
- DHI urges all school systems to properly maintain all working components of door assemblies over the life of the installation to ensure long lasting safety and security.

