

Gateway Community Charters: SAVA Twin Rivers (North Natomas)

1214 North Market Boulevard, Sacramento



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Executive Summary

The Gateway Community Charters (GCC) Site Safety Report assesses the facility's current safety practices and infrastructure, providing actionable recommendations to enhance security, emergency preparedness, and operational efficiency. This report underscores the school's proactive approach to safeguarding its community.

Key Findings:

- Exterior signage is clear and visible, but additional wayfinding signage is recommended to differentiate the high school and middle school buildings.
- The camera system is limited to the high school building and requires expanded coverage, centralized monitoring access, and a clear retention policy for footage.
- Emergency medical supplies are well-stocked, but additional wound-packing and choking response training is advised. The presence of lockdown supplies is inconsistent across classrooms.
- Landscaping is well-maintained, with minor adjustments suggested to improve safety by trimming shrubs close to the building.
- Lighting is adequate and provides good visibility on all sides of the building and in parking lots.
- Perimeter boundaries are well-maintained, with no significant issues noted due to the school's location within a business park.
- Exterior doors are secure but occasionally left open during the day. Window coverings are present but underutilized.
- Safer corners for emergencies are currently not designated.

Key Recommendations:

- Install additional wayfinding signage to differentiate building purposes as the middle school expands.
- Expand camera coverage to include both buildings, with active monitoring and remote emergency access for law enforcement.
- Ensure all classrooms and admin areas have lockdown supply buckets, with staff assigned to monitor and restock supplies.
- Train staff on AED use, wound-packing, and choking response while investing in additional "boo-boo" kits and fire safety equipment.
- Trim any overgrown shrubs near the building to prevent potential concealment opportunities.
- Consider using window coverings during school hours or replacing them with tinted film for natural light and increased privacy.
- Designate safer corners in each classroom and store emergency supplies in these areas.
- Work with officials from the church that shares the space to determine overlapping security protocols and concerns.
- Consider purchasing two-way radios for staff use.

Background

On Thursday, December 12, security experts Chris Taylor and Scott Thorne visited SAVA Twin Rivers (Natomas) to conduct a site safety review. SAVA Twin Rivers is located in the Natomas area of Sacramento and enrolls students in grades 7-12 in two buildings that are part of a mixed-use industrial/business park. Just over 20 staff members work at the facility, serving nearly 200 students in online learning, in-person classroom learning, and career/technical education.

This survey is not meant to identify every potential hazard, safety concern, training need, or emergency supply requirement. While we have noted many positive aspects of your facility, this report focuses on areas that may require further attention. It is designed to assess your facility's current state and highlight areas for improvement based on the information provided.

Private and public organizations across America are responsible for providing safe and secure environments for work and learning. These are places where employees and students should feel protected from undue harm and risk. By conducting this vulnerability assessment, your facility is taking a proactive step toward enhanced safety.

This report provides an overview of your facility's current safety awareness, including findings and recommendations derived from on-site interviews, observations, and a review of materials provided by facility administrators.

Scope

The following activities are within the scope of this project:

- Interviews with key staff members responsible for policy, administration, day-to-day operations, facilities management, and safety.
- A visual walk-through of the facilities with administrative and facilities personnel to assess physical site safety.

The following activities are NOT part of this security assessment.

- Testing current facility-developed safety plans or emergency response plans.
- DPrep/WVPA did not independently verify information provided by employees.
- This security assessment does not include any aspect of IT/Cyber vulnerabilities, which should be assessed independently.

Disclaimer

Any action taken by a recipient of this report or by their representatives based upon this security assessment does not guarantee nor warrant in any way whatsoever that the assessed location(s), facility, its users, or visitors may or may not be rendered safer, invulnerable, or in any fashion impervious to successful penetration, attack, or other acts which could cause property damage and/or personal injury to the facility or its patrons. By accepting this security assessment report and/or by taking or avoiding taking any action based on its written or verbal content, Gateway Community Charters hereby agrees to release, waive, discharge, hold harmless, and not sue WVPA, DPrep Inc., any of their officers and/or employees, for any and all loss, harm, liability, or damage caused as a consequence of the security assessment, release of the written report, pictures, and assessors' opinions, including any loss arising from a claim of negligence. Further, by accepting this report, Gateway Community Charters agrees to indemnify WVPA, DPrep Inc., their agents, officers, and employees from any loss, harm, liability, lawsuits, damages, or costs, including court costs and attorney fees.

Facility-Wide Suggestions

Exterior Signage

Effective signage and wayfinding are fundamental to workplace security, as they provide clear directions, identify hazards, and establish boundaries, thereby enhancing safety and preventing accidents. Strategically placed signs guide employees and visitors, reducing confusion and ensuring efficient evacuation during emergencies.¹ Signage and a well-maintained site also convey a sense of preparation and attention to detail that can deter crime or other hostile actions. Clear and sufficient signage aids emergency services personnel with improved navigation and timeliness of response during emergencies and other critical incidents.

The Center for Safe Schools suggests exterior signage should be: 1) visible from the street or nearest driveway, 2) contrasting with their background, and 3) reflective for low light or smoky conditions. All exterior doors should be numbered in sequential order in a clockwise manner, with the main entrance designated as number one.²

SAVA Twin Rivers has good signage from the road and within the parking lot. Since there are two buildings, additional signage would make that clearer to visitors. Currently, all traffic is directed through one office (the high school), but we were informed that as the middle school grows, it will also have a staffed office, so this differentiation will likely become more necessary.



Moving Forward:

- Consider adding additional parking lot wayfinding signage to differentiate the high school from the middle school.

¹ American Society of Safety Professionals. (n.d.). Three ways signage can improve workplace safety. Retrieved December 1, 2024, from https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/three-ways-signage-can-improve-workplace-safety?utm_source=chatgpt.com

² Center for Safe Schools (2024). Model Door and Window Classroom Numbering. Retrieved from <https://www.centerforsafeschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CSS-Door-and-Window-Classroom-Numbering-2024.pdf>

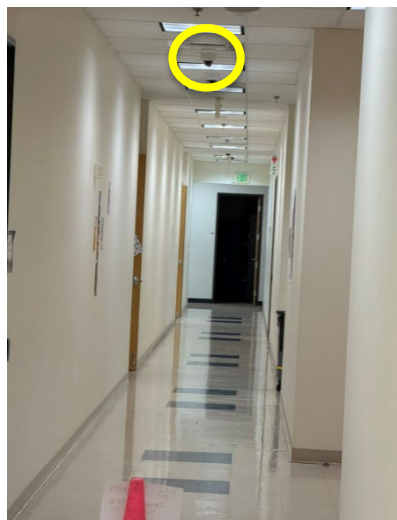
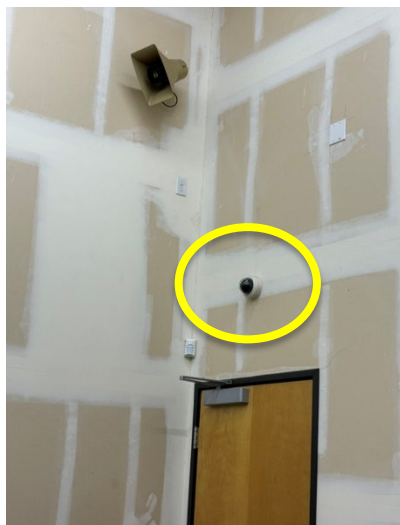
Cameras

Cameras play a vital role in safety by providing real-time surveillance that can help detect and deter potential threats, ensuring a quicker response to incidents. According to the U.S. Secret Service, monitored and strategically placed cameras are essential for identifying suspicious behavior and enhancing situational awareness in critical areas.^{3,4} Reviewing camera footage after the fact may provide investigative material or document a critical incident but will not aid in preventing an incident.

Cameras provide three general functions when it comes to safety and security.

1. Cameras record what occurred on-site during a hazard, conflict, theft, crime, or other critical event, providing detailed documentation and legal risk mitigation when assessing how employees handle critical incidents. The footage is helpful in training scenarios and as part of an after-event review.
2. Cameras deter those who may be engaged in penetration testing or assessing the site as a potential target. Multiple cameras and signage warnings about being recorded offer a level of hardening a target location that is part of a layered safety and security approach.
3. Cameras that are live monitored by office staff at their desks or broadcast to a larger screen in a public area increase situational awareness and response time when reacting to threats, physical altercations, or an active assailant. Providing this live feed link to local law enforcement improves their awareness when responding to a crisis on-site.

On-site staff had access to the camera feeds but only in a server room behind a locked door. Additionally, the middle school building does not appear to have cameras. This will become more important as the student population increases. Determining if the cameras record and how long the footage is stored would be helpful. Another best practice involves sharing remote access for the cameras with local law enforcement to assist in response to critical incident events such as an active assailant.



3 U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center. (2019). Protecting America's schools: A U.S. Secret Service analysis of targeted school violence. Retrieved from https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf

4 Alcatraz Lock. (n.d.). How CCTV cameras can help to prevent school shootings. Retrieved from <https://alcatrazlock.com/how-cctv-cameras-can-help-to-prevent-school-shootings/>



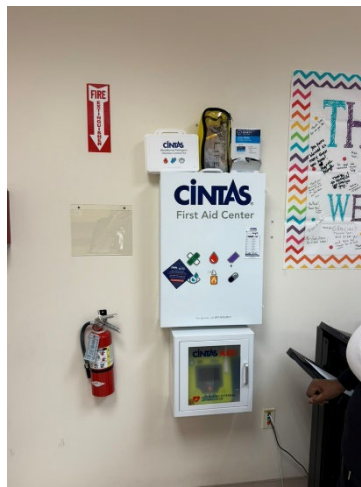
Moving Forward:

- CCTV access was discussed, with a staged model suggested:
 - Coverage across all areas.
 - Active monitoring access in central locations (front desk and others) for better transparency.
 - Police access to the live feed during emergencies.
 - Consider a shared camera system between both buildings.
- Additional cameras should be added to cover entrances and exits for both buildings and the parking lot.
- Ideally, there should be at least 30 days of recorded footage.
- Camera feeds should be monitored by front reception staff and made available to law enforcement via a secure link during emergencies. The existing system likely allows for monitoring from any computer with the proper access.
- Confirm a schematic with all camera locations and coverage areas is available. An assessment should be conducted to confirm adequate coverage (DPrep Safety can assist in this process.)

Emergency Medical Supplies/Lockdown Supplies

First aid response is dependent on two central concepts: materials and training. Having materials available without knowing how to use them is equally problematic as having people trained without providing access to materials. The American Red Cross recommends that first aid kits and AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) be available in multiple locations and that all employees be trained in their use.⁵

There are well-stocked first aid stations in each building, and each includes an AED. The stations were being professionally checked and restocked by a contractor while the team was on-site, who reported that she checks them once per month. Lockdown supplies were visible in some classrooms in the red buckets provided by the district.



Moving Forward:

- Ensure that all classrooms and admin areas have a lockdown supply bucket. The district may have additional buckets available centrally. Consider assigning a staff member to monitor these and determine when supplies need to be replaced. For the placement of buckets, see the section on [Safer Corners](#) in this report.
- While AEDs are useful emergency devices, another priority to invest in would be stop-the-bleed/wound-packing training for all staff. DPrep Safety offers this training, which would benefit all staff. The training and materials are central in responding to any active assailant or major injury. Blood loss is the leading cause of death during active shooting events. Example materials are included in [Appendix A](#).
- Likewise, training related to choking and some of the newer technology related to emergency response to choking should be a higher priority investment for the location. Example materials are included in [Appendix A](#).
- Invest in **several smaller first aid kits**, commonly known as 'boo-boo' kits, that would allow for more strategic placement around the facility and provide easier access to

⁵ American Red Cross. (n.d.). *Workplace safety training courses*. Retrieved December 1, 2024, from <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/organizations/workplace-safety>

commonly used materials such as alcohol wipes and Band-Aids. Example materials are included in [Appendix A](#).

- Add **a first aid kit, a response kit for cutting and fire injuries, and a fire blanket** for the kitchen to have materials closer to where an injury might occur. Example materials are included in [Appendix A](#).
- Ensure all **staff are trained** on AED use, epi-pen usage, anti-overdose treatment, and basic first aid skills.

Landscaping

According to the American Society of Landscape Architects, maintaining landscaping can enhance safety by creating clear sightlines, removing hiding spots, and creating opportunities for natural surveillance, all principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Well-maintained landscaping can also reduce the perception of neglect, further aiding in crime deterrence.⁶

SAVA Twin Rivers is in a newer mixed-use business park. The landscaping is consistent with what you might expect in that setting. Most trees and shrubs were trimmed within accepted CPTED limits, allowing for good sightlines and providing little opportunity for concealment. CPTED teaches a “2-foot, 6-foot” rule to keep a clear line of sight across the facility. This means shrubbery should be no higher than two feet, and tree canopies should be trimmed to hang no lower than six feet.



Moving Forward:

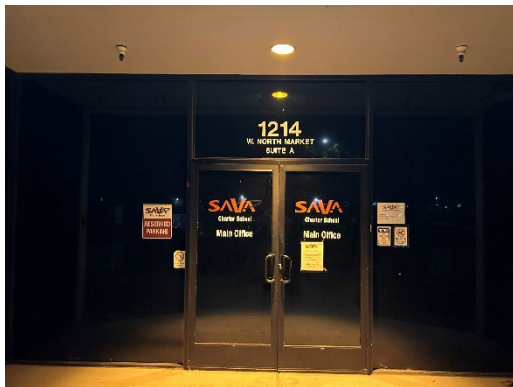
- It was noted that there are a few shrubs against the building. Consider having the facilities team trim these away from the building to lessen the opportunity for concealment.
- Regular maintenance should be scheduled to remain in line with CPTED guidelines.

⁶ American Society of Landscape Architects. (n.d.). *Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) presentation*. Retrieved December 1, 2024, from https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/PPNs/Landing_Pages/ASLA_Urban_Design_PPN_CPTED_Presentation.pdf

Lighting

Lighting is important as it enhances natural surveillance by improving visibility at night, deterring potential offenders. According to the International CPTED Association, well-designed exterior lighting reduces dark areas and increases the likelihood of criminal activities being observed.⁷

The lighting at SAVA Twin Rivers appears to be good on all sides of the building and in the parking lots.



Moving Forward:

- Ensure that the lighting is maintained and periodic lighting surveys are completed.

⁷ International CPTED Association. (n.d.). *Primer in CPTED – What is CPTED?*. Retrieved December 1, 2024, from <https://www.cpted.net/Primer-in-CPTED>

Perimeter

Territorial reinforcement involves designing spaces to clearly define ownership, using elements like fences, signage, and landscaping to discourage unauthorized access and promote a sense of ownership by employees. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, establishing clear territorial boundaries enhances security by fostering ownership and responsibility among occupants.⁸

The school is in a mixed-use business park, and the business park management company dictates territorial reinforcement. Generally, any fencing was in good shape and provided a barrier to industrial businesses located in the same area. Signage does a good job of indicating the presence of the school within the business park.



Moving Forward:

No recommendations currently.

⁸ Zahm, D. L. (2007). *Using crime prevention through environmental design in problem-solving*. U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/using-crime-prevention-through-environmental-design-problem-solving>

Exterior Facility Access

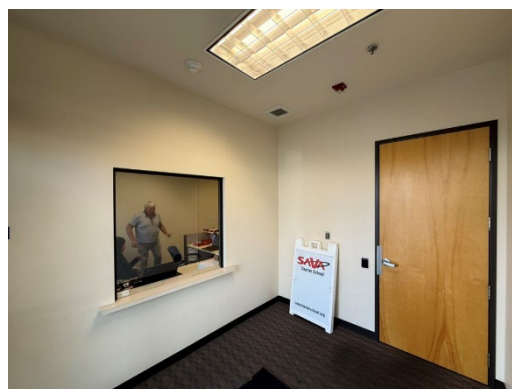
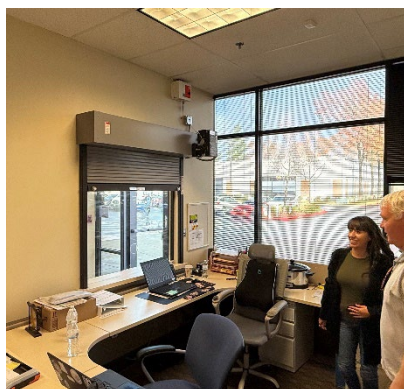
Access Control

Access control is the ability to secure a site and regulate the keys and electronic systems that allow staff to access the worksite.⁹ Access control includes both after-hours and how employees and the public access the site during operation hours. Common systems include master keys and keys with more limited access, key fobs, locked doors, turnstiles, locked fences, sally ports/man traps, counters, and glass/plexiglass barriers.

The main entrance is a ½ man trap system involving a staff member who greets students and visitors through a glass transaction-style window and keys the electronic door lock to allow entry into the lobby. Students must then sign in electronically, and visitors will receive a pass. This is one of the better lobby entry systems seen in the district.

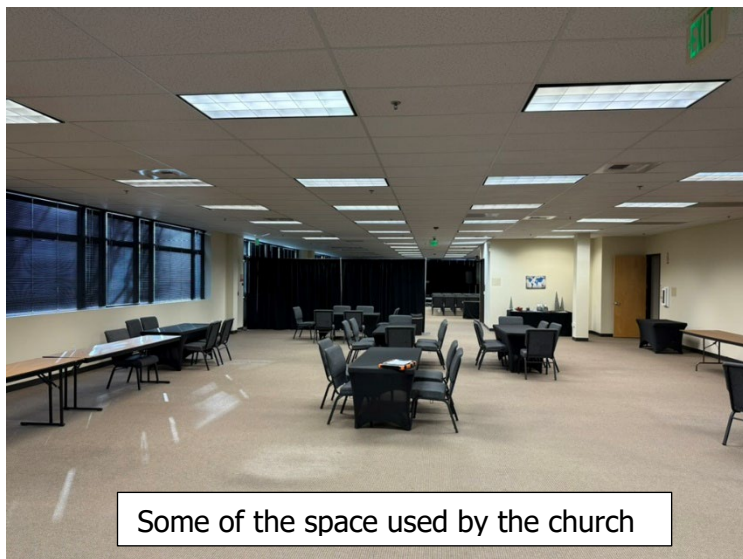
We observed that the main door was propped open in the morning to allow the easy flow of students without constantly opening and closing the door. The large glass window protecting the staff member is extremely thin and directly in front of her seated position. There is also a large circular hole in the middle of the glass directly in front of the woman's face. Shatterproof glass or acrylic is recommended at this location. There is a gate system to close the window, but it does not close quickly and is likely designed to close off the area after hours.

One challenging issue is that there is a church co-located in the facility. The church is not affiliated with the school but leases unused space. The parishioners and guests are present on Wednesday nights and Sundays. They share the main entrance, have their own keys, and have access to the entire building. It appears they prop open an emergency exit door at their end of the building when they are on-site for easy access (highlighted in photo).



⁹ School Safety Working Group. (2020). Ten Essential Actions to Improve School Safety. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Department of Justice.

McPhaul, K., London, M., Murrett, K, Flannery, K, Rosen, J. and Lipscomb, J. (2008). Environment Evaluation for Workplace Violence in Healthcare and Social Services. Journal of Safety Research, 237-250.



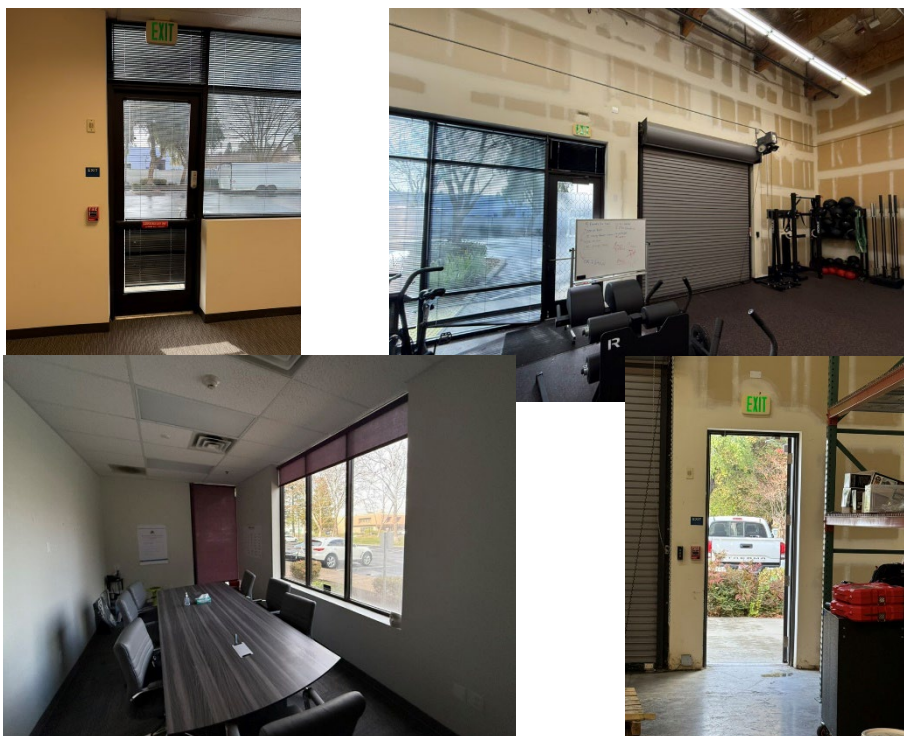
Moving Forward:

- Consider enhancing the reception window with shatterproof glass with no gaps and a speaker system for communication.
- Consider leaving the interior lobby door closed and locked for increased safety, even at the busiest times.
- Consider a safety meeting with church staff with an agenda that includes basic safety protocols, emergency contact information, shared safety responsibilities, communication, etc.
- If one doesn't exist, create a protocol to fully lock down interior school spaces on the days the church uses the facility, giving them access only to the areas they require.

Doors & Windows

Implementing physical security measures like locked doors is fundamental in securing a workplace environment. Locked doors help prevent unauthorized access, protect sensitive information, and ensure the safety of employees and assets.¹⁰

Most windows could not be opened and had coverings, but few were in use. Several exterior doors were found propped open, and staff indicated that the large garage doors at the back and on the sides of the building are left open when weather permits. Doors that were closed were all found to be properly locked.



Moving Forward:

- Consider using the window coverings that are in place to prevent outsiders from seeing into classrooms and offices. If natural light is desired, consider replacing or supplementing window coverings with a relatively inexpensive tinted film that allows for light and those inside to see out but impedes others from looking in. Weather film is reflective and helps lower the cost of heating and cooling.
- Confirm that all exterior and interior windows have coverings that can be drawn in lockdown/barricade incidents.
- Exterior doors should be secured during the school day, particularly in less populated parts of the building.

¹⁰ National Center for Education Statistics. (1998). *Creating safe and drug-free schools: An action guide - Chapter 5: School security technology*. Retrieved December 1, 2024, from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs98/safetech/chapter5.asp>

- Consider an educational campaign that will aid in preventing students and staff from propping doors or letting in people without the proper ID. Our team would be able to help design and implement this program if needed.

Roof Access

Roof access, while needed for maintenance, can be problematic if it is accessible to others intent on bad acts or who may put themselves in a dangerous situation, increasing risk and liability for the facility.¹¹

Each building has a roof access hatch within a locked utility room. At the time of the site visit, the hatches were found locked. There were no ladders or other items on the exterior that would allow for unauthorized access.



Moving Forward:

No recommendations currently.

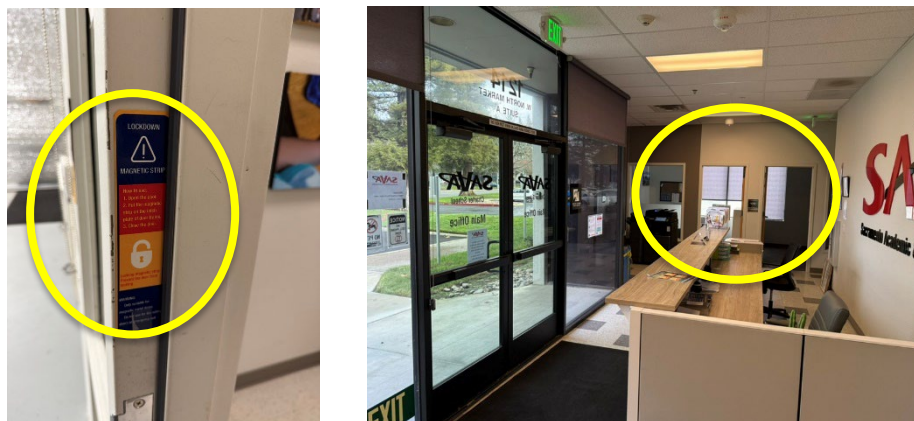
¹¹ Utah State Board of Education. (2019). *School safety*. Retrieved December 1, 2024, from <https://schools.utah.gov/schoollandtrust/resources/02.2019.SchoolSafety.pdf>

Facility Interior

Doors

Locked interior doors are vital for workplace security because they prevent intruders from freely accessing the facility. By limiting internal movement, they help protect sensitive information, assets, and ensure employee safety. Implementing access controls like locked interior doors is essential for safeguarding organizational assets.¹²

Staff use keys and key fobs to enter the building. Custodial staff arrive early and unlock the building and interior doors before the start of the school day. While there was some inconsistency in door locking hardware, most doors were closed and locked in the high school. In the middle school. The middle school is not at full capacity at this point, and there are several unused offices and empty and unlocked rooms. This potentially gives students and others a concealment area. Magnetic "lockdown" strips were found on many interior doors, as noted in the photo below.



Moving Forward:

- Many classroom doors can only be locked with a key from the outside. Adding manual push buttons or turn locks to classroom and office doors should be prioritized.
- Consider using additional emergency door security hardware in classrooms and administrative offices. These devices can be placed in each area for a relatively low cost. The door locks must be used as part of a larger plan related to lockdown/barricade and shelter-in-place processes and be practiced by all staff regularly to ensure they know how and when to use these. Examples can be found in [Appendix A](#).
- All unused spaces should be secured.
- The lockdown strips were only encountered at this location, which may indicate that they are a relic from prior building occupants. These are used to keep a door from locking, and while they can be useful for emergency personnel, we do not recommend their use in this setting. These strips should be removed.

¹² National Institute of Standards and Technology. (1995). *An introduction to computer security: The NIST handbook* (NIST Special Publication 800-12, Chapter 15). Retrieved from <https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-12/800-12-html/chapter15.html>

Interior Signage

Signage in the building conveys a sense of order, preparedness, and professionalism to visitors and those who may look to cause harm to the facility. The Center for Safe Schools offers the following guidelines for interior door numbering: 1) always place them on the hinge side of the door near the bottom so they can be viewed in smokey conditions, 2) contrast with their background, and 3) be retroreflective for low light and smokey conditions.¹³ This helps emergency responders and those evacuating navigate the space during a critical incident.

There is interior signage at Twin Rivers, including exit route signs, as highlighted below. It was not clear if students and staff were aware of the signs, and they appeared to be near the actual exit door as opposed to creating a route through the building to safety. The building layout is somewhat confusing, particularly to new attendees and visitors.



Moving Forward:

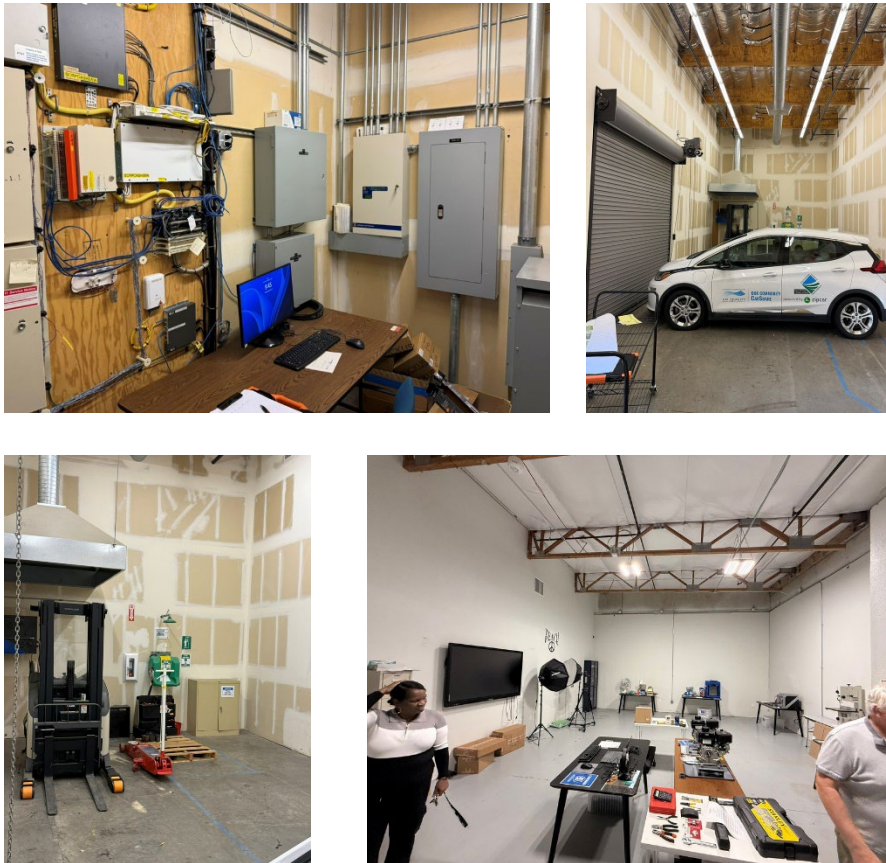
- Consider installing additional evacuation wayfinding, including the use of arrows where possible to indicate exit routes. These can be affixed to walls or waxed onto the floors.
- Highlight "shelter in place" areas or "safer rooms" in existing diagrams. Bathrooms and utility closets are good options for safer rooms. These areas should not be defined/labeled on the maps, as this could give potential assailants the knowledge of secure areas. Staff and students should be trained on their locations.

¹³ Center for Safe Schools (2024). Model Door and Window Classroom Numbering. Retrieved from <https://www.centerforsafeschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CSS-Door-and-Window-Classroom-Numbering-2024.pdf>

Electrical Panels and Utility Areas

Implementing physical access controls for sensitive areas is essential for protecting organizational assets and ensuring safety. Securing utility areas prevents unauthorized individuals from tampering with critical systems like electrical, plumbing, and HVAC equipment, reducing the risk of accidents, service disruptions, and security breaches.¹⁴

Utility panels and rooms were found locked and secured. Large areas of both buildings are open and accessible from inside the school, including an area that contains a forklift and other vehicles. We were able to freely wander into these areas with no staff present.



Moving Forward:

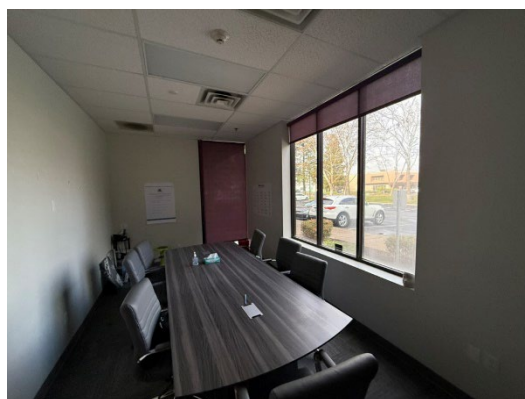
- Limit access to the areas mentioned unless they are actively in use for instruction. Ensure all vehicles are locked and inaccessible to students and others.

¹⁴ National Fire Protection Association. (n.d.). *NFPA 730: Guide for premises security*. Retrieved from <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-730-standard-development/730>

Windows and Window Coverings

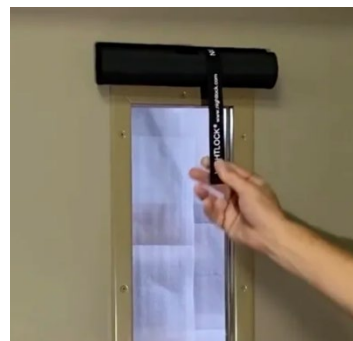
Windows enhance natural surveillance by allowing visibility into and out of a building, thereby deterring potential offenders. According to the International CPTED Association, properly designed and placed windows can increase security by promoting observation, while window coverings can balance privacy needs.¹⁵ Window coverings are also important during active assailant incidents to provide concealment from the attacker. Temporary coverings are preferable to permanent ones to allow monitoring of classroom activities and prevent unauthorized use of empty classrooms.¹⁶

Most classrooms do not have exterior windows. The majority of those that have windows in the door have roll-down coverings. Most offices and break rooms have exterior windows with shades.



Moving Forward:

- Ensure all door windows have coverings that can be lowered quickly in an emergency.
- Consider window coverings that drop down instead of those that must be rolled down. These allow the room to be secured quickly and require less thought during an emergency. Examples are pictured below, and more information is available in [Appendix A](#).
- Consider replacing exterior window shades with one-way, see-through film.



¹⁵ International CPTED Association. (2020). *What is CPTED?* <https://cpted.net/what-is-cpted>

¹⁶ Keehan, A. (2023). Secure Classroom Doors to Stop Active Shooters. Retrieved on November 15, 2024 from <https://www.ue.org/risk-management/premises-safety/secure-classroom-doors-to-stop-active-shooters/>

Safer Corners

Designating "safer corners"—areas within rooms that offer protection and are not visible from doorways—is important for enhancing occupant safety during emergencies. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, identifying secure locations within a building can increase personal safety during incidents like active shooter situations.¹⁷

Safer corners are considered essential for school safety, based on lessons learned from previous school shootings, such as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School incident.¹⁸

No safer corners are designated at this site.



These photos provide an example of a safer corner marked with the school's mascot. These low-cost/no-cost safety measures should be tied to a larger training program to ensure the practices are understood by all staff and are put into place consistently across the GCC community.

Moving Forward:

- Designate safer corners in each classroom and create a policy that lockdown supplies are to be kept in these areas. These areas can be designated with a picture of the mascot so that children of all ages can be aware of the areas. This should be accompanied by additional training and align with the Comprehensive School Site Safety Plan (CSSP).
- Consider assigning responsibility to an individual or department for maintaining safer corners and ensuring proper signage.
- Consider storing basic emergency supplies in each safer corner.
- Consider reviewing possible locations and create additional safer spaces.
- Consider locating any communications (classroom phone) in the safer corner.

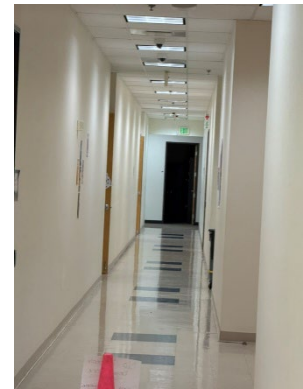
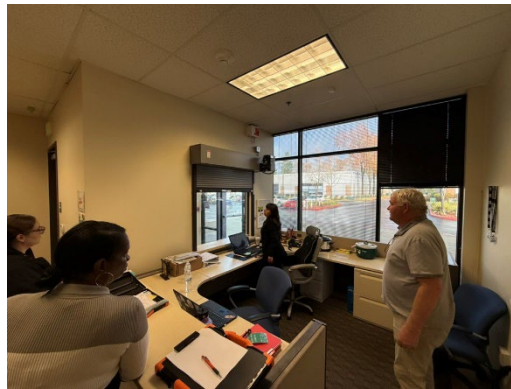
¹⁷ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2015). *Active Shooter Emergency Action Plan Guide*. <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/active-shooter-emergency-action-plan-guide>

¹⁸ New Hampshire Department of Safety. (2019). *Recommendations: Hard corners*. Retrieved from <https://schoolsafetyresources.nh.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Recommendations-Hard-Corners.pdf>

Visibility

Natural surveillance is a CPTED concept that involves designing and positioning features and people to enhance visibility and make it easier to observe activities. The goal is to remove potential hiding spots and improve the ability of authorized personnel to monitor and respond effectively. This approach helps deter aggressive behaviors by increasing the likelihood of detection and enhancing the sense of safety.¹⁹

There are good sightlines inside and outside of buildings with good lighting at night, as previously noted. The hallways, while decorated, did not have sightlines blocked by decorations or other items. The ability to see who is entering the building from the reception area is unimpeded; however, anyone outside can also see into the office.



Moving Forward:

- Consider adding one-way, tinted film to the reception area to allow for reception staff to see out but impede others from seeing in.
- Convex mirrors may be helpful in hallways that end in a "T" junction to avoid collisions and to see if a hallway is safe before entry during an emergency.

¹⁹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (U.S.). Division of Violence Prevention. (2017). Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) School Assessment (CSA).

Communication

The ability to communicate with staff, administrators, and teachers throughout the school during a critical incident requires each staff person to have access to a two-way radio, with appropriate training on how to use this radio and which channels should be utilized.

The site does not appear to have two-way radios for administrative team members. These devices provide immediate contact among school staff, which helps both in everyday management and daily operations.²⁰ These radios are reliable through both power outages and network issues that may impact the internet or cellular services. They also offer a relatively low-cost solution that can scale with the schools' needs.

Moving Forward:

- Develop a plan to purchase and train all staff on using two-way radios.
- A two-way radio should always be kept at the front desk.
- Ensure coordination among the various communication methods to be used in an emergency, including phones, two-way radios, and duress/panic alarms.
- Implement an all-hazard training plan with wall flip charts.

²⁰ Dougherty, K. (2024). Prioritizing School Safety: The Value of Two-Way Radios in School Administration. Retrieved on December 23, 2024 from <https://marketscale.com/industries/podcast-network/icom/prioritizing-school-safety/>
Bryant, K. (2020). The Role of Communications in Implementing a FEMA Emergency Response. Retrieved on December 23, 2024 from www.ehstoday.com/safety-technology/article/21135511/the-role-of-communications-in-implementing-a-fema-emergency-response

Duress Alarms

Providing staff with access to duress alarms (more commonly known as 'panic' alarms) helps improve emergency service reaction time during a critical incident.²¹ Ideally, there should be several of these alarms, some stationary and some mobile (to be used during tense meetings or customer interactions). These alarms should be tested quarterly to ensure they are in proper working order. Staff should be trained to understand how and when to use the alarm and who the alarm notifies.

There is a duress alarm at the reception desk; however, additional panic alarms in the building are not operating.

Moving Forward:

- Additional mobile panic or duress buttons may be an investment to review through the alarm company used by GCC.
- Duress alarms in each of the two buildings should ideally be tied into the same system.
- Ensure proper training for all staff on how to use any emergency alert system and in what order they should be used during a crisis.
- Ensure consistent language is used to communicate various actions such as lockdown/barricade and shelter-in-place.
- Explore software-based panic/duress alarms at each of the computer terminals.
- Consider training for staff, including where the signal goes when they are used and the need for quarterly testing.
- Consider creating a list of where all panic alarms are if this does not currently exist.

²¹ Hattersley, R. (2024). More Campuses Adopting Panic Alarm Tech, Most Satisfied with System Performance. Published by Campus Safety Magazine. <https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/insights/more-campuses-adopting-panic-alarm-tech-but-satisfaction-with-system-performance-is-slipping/161115/>

Additional Information and Recommendations

- A 3D printer was found on-site in the middle school building at Twin Rivers.
 - While these are a great educational tool, they have unfortunately been used to make parts for weapons or other dangerous or inappropriate items. Establish guidelines addressing user responsibilities, permissible materials, supervision requirements, and safety protocols. The internal tracking log for the printer should be turned on, and protocols implemented to determine who is using the printer and when. Implementing comprehensive training programs and regular maintenance schedules is also advised.²²

²² United Educators. (n.d.). *3D printer use policies*. Retrieved December 31, 2024, from <https://www.ue.org/risk-management/enterprise-risk-management/3d-printers-use-policies/>

Appendix A: Sample Products

Medical

- Smaller “boo-boo” first aid kits: [Johnson & Johnson Travel Ready Portable Emergency First Aid Kit](#)
- Tourniquet: [Stop The Bleed® Basic Kit with CAT Tourniquet](#)
- Wound packing: [Critical Essentials Bleeding Control Kit for Chest & Limb Wounds](#)
- Security seals for AEDs: [Security Control Locks](#)
- Overdose kits: [Naloxone Overdose Emergency Kit Cabinet](#) and [Narcan medication](#)
- Anti-choking kits: [VitalVac](#), [LifeVac](#) and [Arixmed](#)

Fire

- Fire Blanket: [Prepared Hero Emergency Fire Suppression Blanket for Kitchen](#)

Lockdown/Barricade

- Window pulls: [Nightlock window shade](#) and [Hideaway Helper window shade](#)
- Door locking devices: [TeacherLock](#), [SAFEBOLT](#), [Brinks door security bar](#), [Door armor max](#), [DoorJammer Lockdown](#), [The Boot](#), [Bolo Stick](#), [Rhino Ware](#)
- Mobile panic/duress apps: [SHEQSY app](#), [Blackline Safety](#), [OK Alone](#), [Lone Worker app](#)
- Summary article on panic/duress alarms: [Deepdive: 2023 Panic Alarm and Mobile Duress Systems and Apps](#)