

Gateway Community Charters: Futures High School & Higher Learning Academy

900 Grace Avenue, 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:

- Safer corners for emergencies are not designated, and staff may lack training in utilizing these spaces effectively.
- Exterior signage is adequate but could be supplemented with additional wayfinding and territorial reinforcement signs around the property's edges.
- Nearly 30 cameras are in use, but blind spots and a lack of night vision capabilities have led to vulnerabilities.
- Emergency medical supplies, including AEDs and Narcan, are well-stocked, though lockdown supplies are inconsistently distributed across classrooms.
- Landscaping is well-maintained, meeting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines.
- Lighting is generally effective but could be supplemented in areas with identified blind spots.
- The perimeter is secured with anti-climb fencing and solid gates, though regular checks for propped gates are recommended.
- Interior and exterior doors are well-maintained and secure, but some fire safety concerns exist, such as crash bar placement on certain interior doors.

Key Recommendations:

- Designate safer corners in classrooms, equipping them with emergency supplies and clear signage.
- Equip reception staff with two-way radios and camera monitoring access to enhance communication and visibility.
- Install additional signage at key intersections and entry points to improve navigation and territorial reinforcement.
- Upgrade existing cameras with night vision capabilities, address blind spots, and provide police with live access during emergencies.
- Ensure all classrooms have lockdown supplies and designate a staff member to oversee inventory and upkeep.
- Provide staff training in wound-packing, choking response, and basic first aid to enhance emergency preparedness.
- Add lighting in areas identified as blind spots to deter vandalism and improve visibility.
- Clarify crash bar regulations with the Fire Marshall to resolve fire safety concerns while maintaining lockdown protocols.

Background

On Wednesday, December 11, security experts Charlie Taylor and Dr. Chris Taylor visited Futures High School and The Higher Learning Academy, which are co-located in a facility built by the district in 2016. Futures has approximately XX staff and XX students in attendance and enrolls 9-12th grade students, and HLA has approximately XX staff and XX students in attendance and enrolls K-8th grade students.

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

The space is shared by two schools, Futures High School (FHS) and the Higher Learning Academy (HLA), each with a principal. The facility is bordered by a large area of open land on the north side and occupies approximately half a block, half of which is fenced recreation fields and half of which is the facility. There are signs located on the front of the facility indicating the names of both schools as well as other information. There is an additional sign on the HLA side of the facility.



Moving Forward:

- As this is a very large property in terms of acreage, consider additional signs on the fences at the property's edges.

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>

- Consider a sign on school property near the intersection of Grace Avenue and Rio Linda Boulevard, which leads to the main entrance of the schools, as well as another sign at the intersection of Grace Avenue and May Street.
- Consider a sign at the main entrance off Grace Avenue. While there are signs on the building, they are difficult to read from the road. This would provide additional territorial reinforcement.

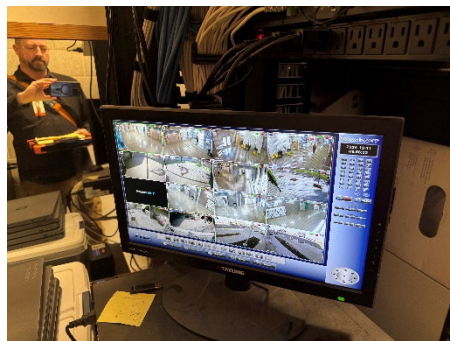
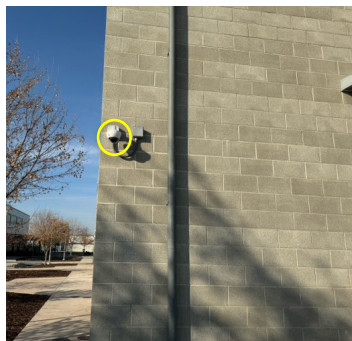
Cameras

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.

FHS and HLA have nearly 30 cameras covering the facility but have also discovered blind spots they plan to address. They have expressed a need to upgrade some cameras with night vision due to some vandalism/theft occurring in areas that are not as well-lighted. The camera system was reported to store two weeks of data. Staff were not clear if the police had live access. Camera monitoring is done through a workstation in a locked server area, with administrative staff and behavioral staff having access.



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:

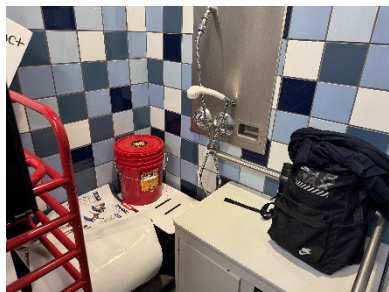
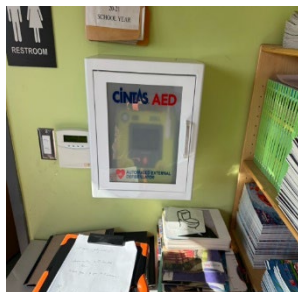
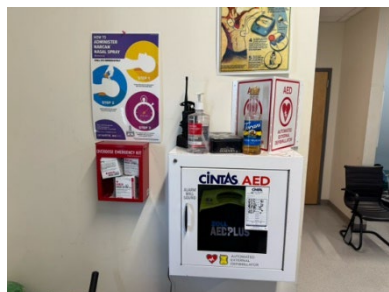
- Consider moving ahead with the plan to procure additional cameras and low light upgrades for identified blind spots and areas of recent criminal activity.
- Work with local police to create a protocol for the police to have live access during emergencies.
- Consider creating additional opportunities for monitoring. The current camera setup likely allows for monitoring from desktop computers, which may not add to the cost. In addition to key administrative staff, the front desk area should have active monitoring available.
- Ideally, 30 days of recordings are stored.
- 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

A nurse's office behind the front desk in the lobby is stocked with an AED, Narcan, EpiPens, and other first aid supplies. There is also an AED at one of the exterior classroom buildings and one in the gym. Supplies are provided by Cintas and are inspected monthly.

There were lockdown supplies in the red buckets (bottom photos) used throughout the district in many classrooms and other areas, but it did not appear that all classrooms had them, and in some cases, staff were not aware of where they were in the room.



Moving Forward:

- Ensure that all classrooms and other areas used for shelter have lockdown supplies. The district may have additional bucket supplies available. Also, consider placing a staff member in charge of inventory, placement, and upkeep, perhaps the site manager. Supplies should be kept in the [safer corner](#).
- 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](#).

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>

- 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 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

The schools share a facility that was built by the district in 2016. There is a small amount of landscaping, which is well within CPTED guidelines. There are no overgrowth or climbing access concerns.



Moving Forward:

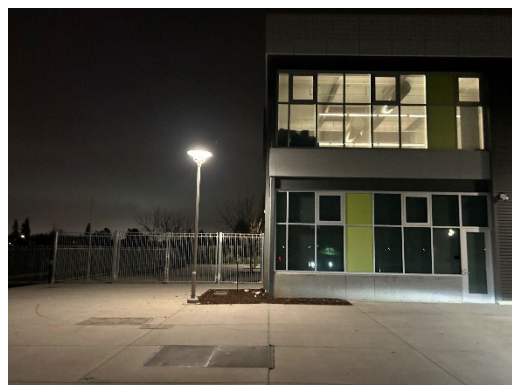
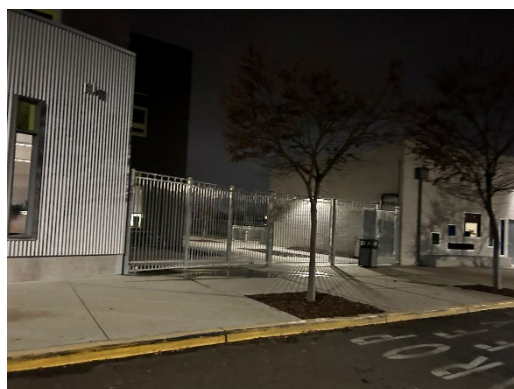
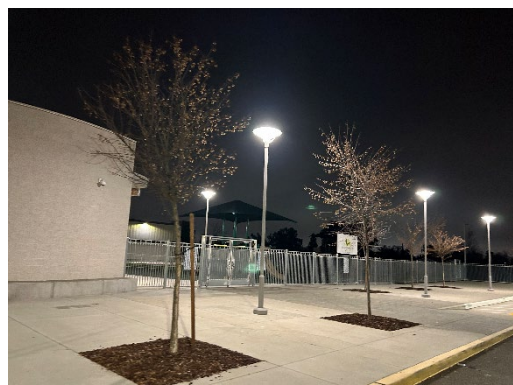
- Continue to maintain good landscaping practices that follow CPTED guidelines. Shrubbbery should be no higher than two feet, and tree canopies should be trimmed to hang no lower than six feet.

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

Lighting at the facility seems well-placed and working, although staff have identified spaces that may need additional lighting and/or monitoring.



Moving Forward:

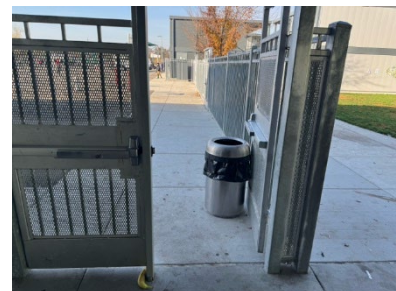
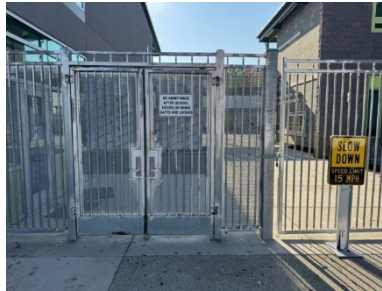
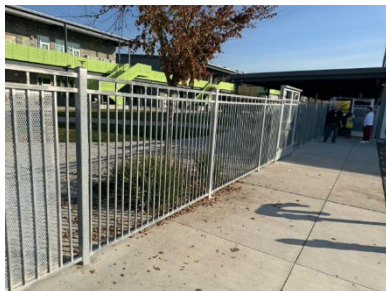
- Staff at FHS/HLA have identified blind spots and areas that have experienced vandalism/theft. While they plan on addressing these with night vision cameras, consider determining whether additional lighting will enhance safety in those areas.

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 property's footprint is large, as seen in the overhead photo below (obtained via Google Maps). The facility is inside a well-maintained anti-climb fence system on the property with several solid gates, including vehicle gates. There is a larger chain-link fence surrounding the recreation fields. While on-site, we discovered some gates propped open.



Moving Forward:

- Consider adding signage to the outer chain-link fence to increase territorial enforcement.
- Gates should be secured at all times. Review an existing or develop a new process by which gates are checked multiple times daily.

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.

Both schools share the lobby, the sole designated entry point after drop-off in the morning. The lobby is welcoming, with ample room for visitors or students waiting to leave. The area has two restrooms. One side leads directly to the shared administrative suite. A door on the other side leads to the facility's inner perimeter (below left). A Knox box was just outside the main entrance for fire department access (highlighted below). There is no similar access box for police.

Access control was consistently mentioned by front office staff as an issue they would like assistance in addressing. Currently, the front door is kept unlocked, and visitors sign a logbook at the front desk.



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:

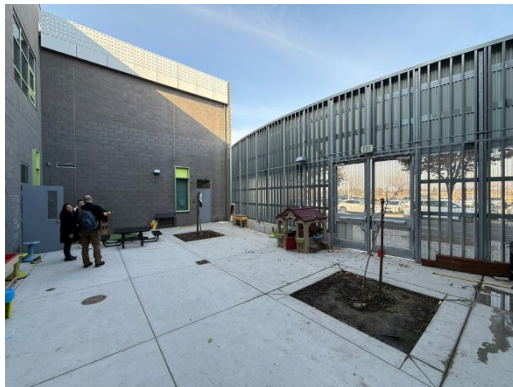
- Consider locking the front door and installing an intercom system to acknowledge and communicate with visitors.
- Consider a visitor management system that will scan IDs, check against the sexual offender database, and allow for the creation of reports or quick access to data. These appear to be in use in other parts of the district and may be available from a common vendor.
- We previously suggested adding camera monitoring access to the reception desk workstation. If that is possible, views of any cameras on the front of the facility would be important for this staff to have.
- Consider working with the SRO and local police to determine access for the police in an emergency.

Doors & Windows

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

The facility is well-designed in that there are far fewer external doors that lead to public areas as compared to other similar facilities. The majority of doors open into areas that are within the fence system. The external doors viewed on the day of the site visit were locked and appeared well-maintained. After morning drop-off and before pick-up, all visitor traffic and any late students are directed to the main office doors (highlighted below right).

One exterior wall has an ingenious design in that it has a shield that conceals a small outdoor playground (below left). The shield allows light and air but is very difficult to see through from the public side.



Moving Forward:

- Consider discussing potential security issues within the perimeter with staff to determine whether a concern exists, and if it does, we are happy to address it through training.

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>

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

This facility has no interior roof access and there is no landscaping or other easily climbable objects that would aid in accessing the roof. A staff member indicated that facilities staff used large ladders to access the roof if needed.

Moving Forward:

- No recommendations at this time.

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

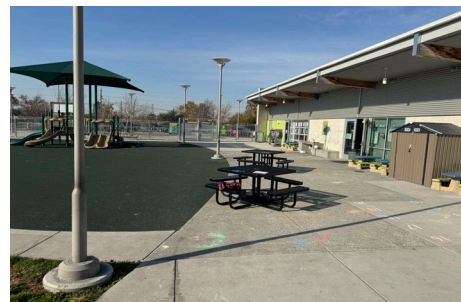
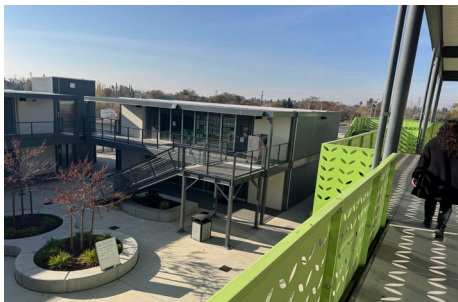
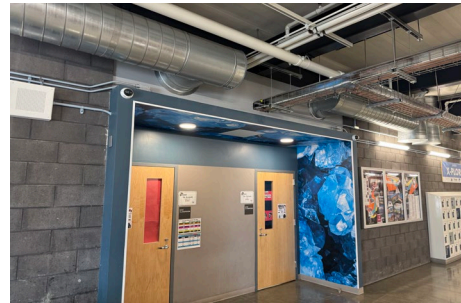
Facility Interior

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

This building design considers the California weather, and there are a variety of outdoor instruction spaces and classrooms that are open to the outside behind the fenced perimeter on the HLA side. The Futures side has more traditional classrooms and hallways with open balconies. Generally, most locking hardware appears consistent throughout the facility, likely because the facility is a relatively new build. We found a few propped doors on the interior of the facility.

The upstairs hallway on the Futures side has a set of doors that appear to have the crash bar on the wrong side of the door (below left). These were required by the Fire Marshal, as there are two classrooms on the other side of the door. However, this could allow an assailant into the area. There is a lock, but someone must get there before the assailant. The only other egress route for these classrooms is down a set of exterior stairs.



Moving Forward:

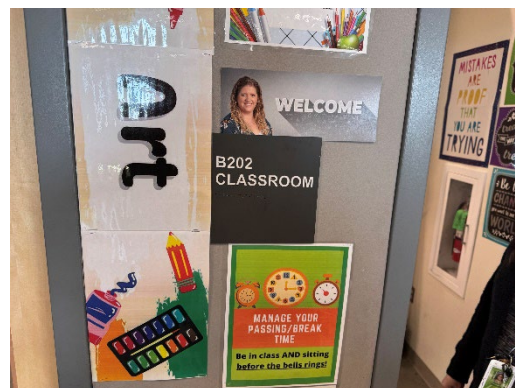
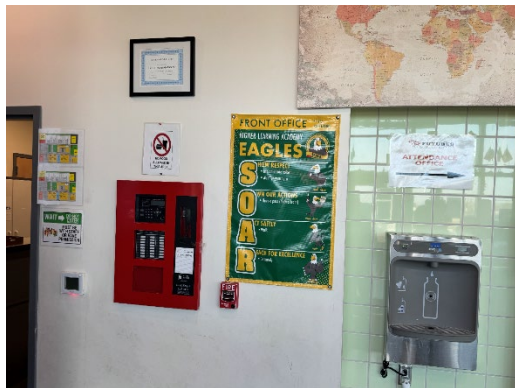
- Consider clarifying the crash bar regulations with the Fire Marshal to determine whether a solution allows fire safety and protection during a lockdown.

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.

The facility had well-placed, numbered classroom signs. There isn't much directional signage on the interior.



Moving Forward:

- Consider adding wayfinding signs on the interior, including signage directing students and staff to evacuation routes.
1. 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.

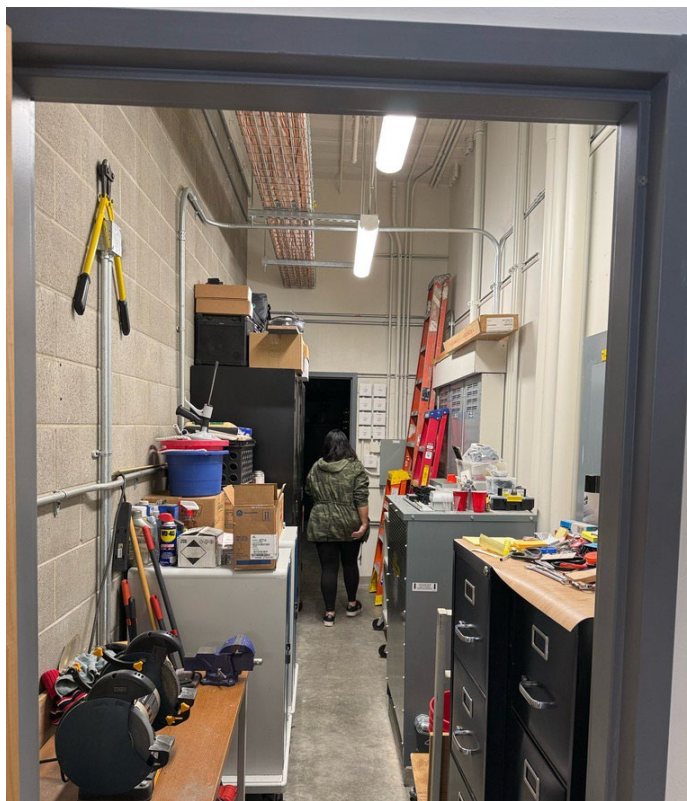
¹³ Center for Safe Schools (2024). Model Door and Window Classroom Numbering. Retrieved from <https://www.centerforsafeschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CSS-Door-and-Window-Classroom-Numbering-2024.pdf>

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 rooms and panels were found locked and generally in orderly condition.

In the shared gym, the athletic director uses a utility room as an office, and egress through the fire door is severely impeded (top right photo).



Moving Forward:

- Consider a different space for the athletic director for office use and storage. Ensure that all utility rooms are clutter-free and emergency exits are clear.

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

The facility has various window types; some had covers or film, but many did not. Some staff have covered windows with art or signs, but this can present other issues.



Moving Forward:

- With the variety of window types, there may not be a one-size-fits-all solution in terms of shades. Consider one-way window film as a less expensive option for classroom and office windows.
- Consider closing any existing window shades to lessen visibility into the classroom

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/>

- Where they would fit, consider window coverings that drop down instead of those that must be rolled down. These allow for quicker securing of a room and require less thought during an emergency. Examples are pictured below, and more information is available in [Appendix A](#).



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 the facility.



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/lockdown supplies in each safer corner.
- Consider reviewing possible locations and create additional safer spaces.
- Consider locating any communications (classroom phone) in the safer corner.

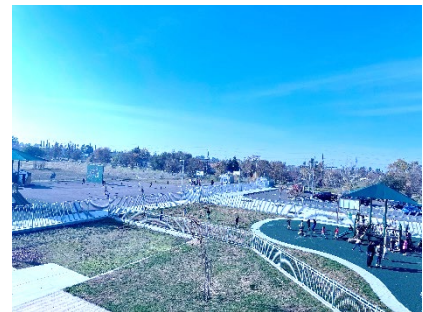
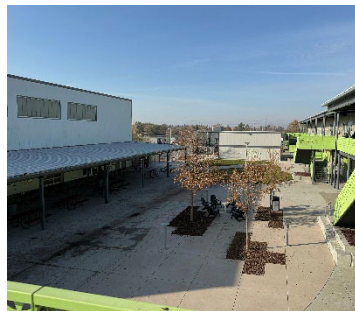
¹⁷ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2015). *Active Shooter Emergency Action Plan Guide*. <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/active-shooter-emergency-action-plan-guide>

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

The facility is located on a large plot of land, and nothing borders it for several hundred feet. As previously noted, there are good sightlines outside buildings with good lighting at night. 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, as mentioned, camera access for reception staff would allow for increased visibility of the front entry.



Moving Forward:

- Consider adding camera access for the reception staff to increase visibility of the entry.

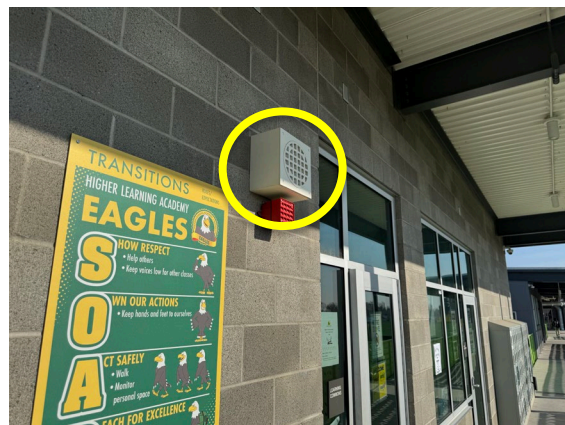
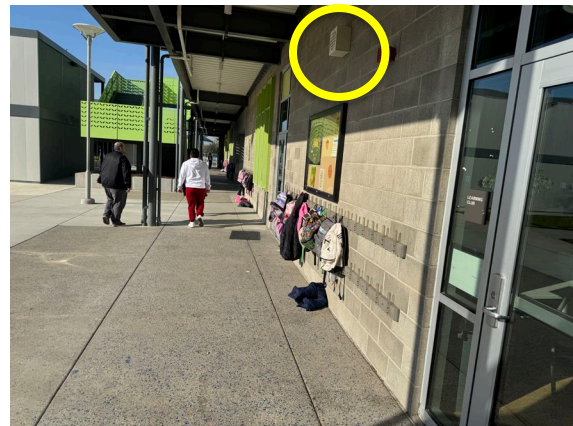
¹⁹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (U.S.). Division of Violence Prevention. (2017). Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) School Assessment (CSA).

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 staff at both schools within the facility have radios and use separate and shared channels. This is their chief means of communication. Classrooms also have phones, and there is a public address system (highlighted below).

The two principals and other key administrative staff share an office suite and a support staff, and there is a great deal of communication, overlap, and shared responsibilities during the day.



Moving Forward:

- Ensure that all staff are trained on the proper use of radios.
- Ensure proper training for all staff on how to use any emergency alert system.
- Ensure consistent language is used to communicate actions such as lockdown/barricade and shelter-in-place.

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.²⁰ 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 properly working. Staff should be trained to understand how and when to use the alarm and who the alarm notifies.

We did not view any duress alarms at the facility.

Moving Forward:

- Consider purchasing panic or duress alarms for the reception area and other strategic areas. These may be available through the alarm company used by GCC.
- Ensure proper training for all staff on how to use duress alarms.
- Ensure consistent language is used to communicate 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.

²⁰ 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

- The facility employs paraprofessionals as hall monitors. They are equipped with radios and monitor a wide variety of activities, including class change times, safety, behavioral issues either in the hallway or when a student is asked to leave the classroom and proctoring tests or assignments in the hallway. It appears to be highly successful.
 - This could potentially serve as a model for other schools in the district that are similarly situated.

- We were able to meet Officer Usher, who works with several Gateway schools as the SRO. When asked about his concerns, he mentioned unhoused people breaking into the sheds and bringing drug paraphernalia onto the property.
 - The school and Officer Usher work with the local municipality to remove any unhoused encampments from areas adjacent to school property. This process appears to be ongoing and generally works well.

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](#)