



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / Albany, NY
12234

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To: BOCES District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Public School Administrators
Charter School Administrators
Nonpublic School Administrators

From: Christina Coughlin, PhD.

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Subject: SCHOOL SECURITY and DOOR HARDENING

The New York State Education Department, (NYSED) is committed to the safety and protection of all students, staff, and visitors in New York school buildings. Under state law, NYSED is responsible for ensuring that school buildings are compliant with the fire and building code, are regularly inspected

Acceptable Door Hardening Products:

Many door hardware manufacturers provide products that meet the need to secure a classroom door quickly and easily from inside the classroom or other space in a school building while complying with the requirement to allow free egress from the space. The Office of Facilities Planning recommends consultation with a commercial door hardware supplier who is well versed in the code. Examples of acceptable products include:

- Classroom security function door hardware that allows a lock to be secured from inside a classroom, while still allowing free egress from the inside and entry from the outside with the use of a key or other approved means which are readily available at similar cost as traditional classroom function locksets. A door lock with a push-button lock on the interior, that when engaged, does not prevent the door from being opened from the inside is one example.
- Door

Funding: Funding for compliant door hardware is available through building aid reimbursement and the NYSAFE Act claim process. The NYSAFE Act claim process does not require submission to the Office of Facilities Planning for approval.

Please see this link to the NYSAFE Act Guidance Document on our website:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/documents/NYSAFEActImplementation.pdf>.

Further Research: The challenges of maintaining the balance between safety from hostile intruders and the need to maintain free exit from the building has been recognized by national organizations such as Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS). This organization has done extensive research and has developed resources on this topic here: <https://passk12.org/classroom-door-barricade-device-resources/>.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Facilities Planning at: (518) 474-3906 or emscfp@nysed.gov.

APPENDIX: The applicable sections of the Uniform Code and Manual of Planning Standards cited below seek to ensure that the means used to lock a door do so in a safe manner.

2020 Fire Code of New York State (2020 FCNYS)