

Assembly Areas

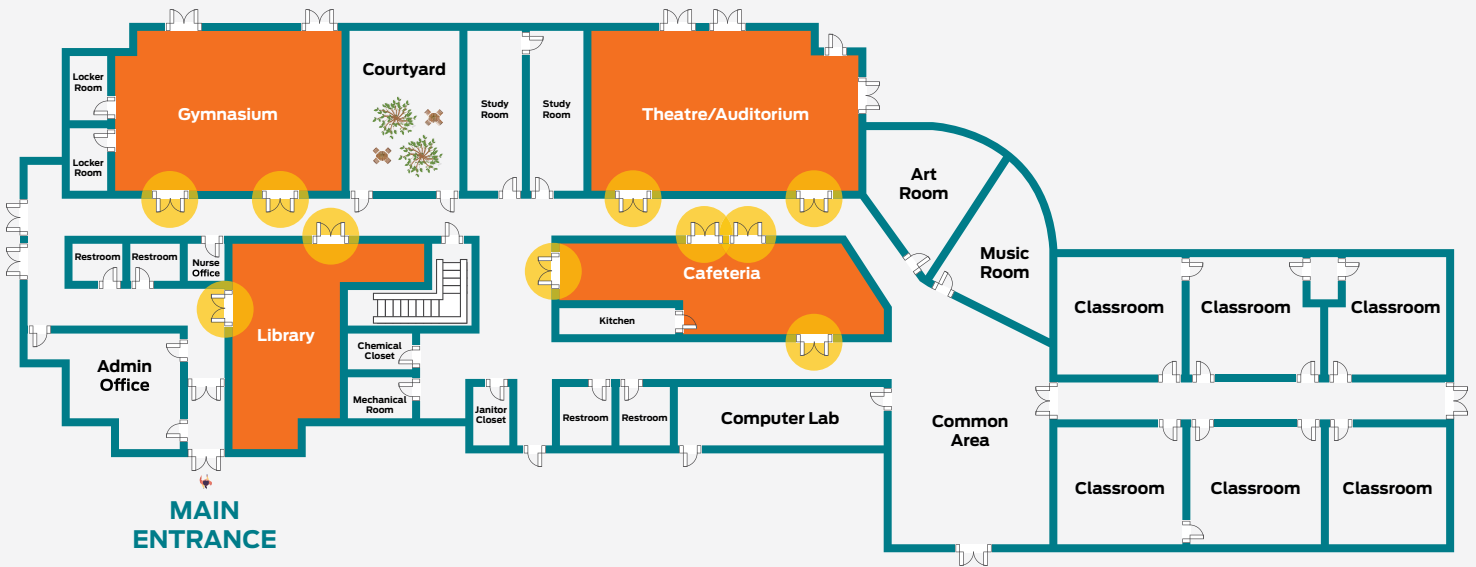
Assembly areas include gymnasiums, cafeterias, auditoriums, media centers/libraries and music rooms. Although larger than traditional classrooms, these are spaces where students and staff gather, and they need the same lockdown policies and procedures as regular classrooms.

This solution covers assembly area doors opening into the school. For solutions on doors leading outside the school, see Exterior Door Solutions.



 **Learn best practices to secure this opening.**

Locate these openings:



Operational requirements:



Occupants should be able to **secure the door from inside the room**, preventing entry from the hall in case of lockdown



Panic hardware as **required per code**



On a bank of doors, often only one door is left unlocked for **access to facilitate quick lockdown**



On pairs of doors, only put **pulls or levers on the outside of one of the two doors** to prevent chaining the doors



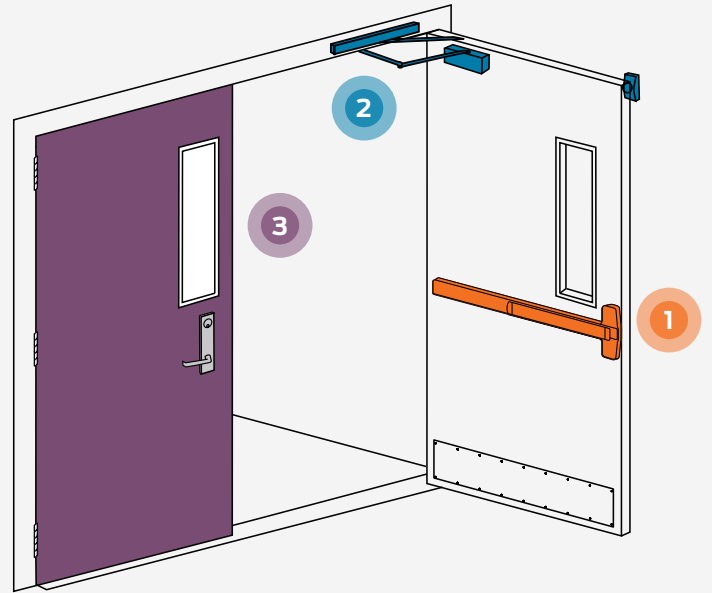
Free egress is **always available**



Recommended products:

Here are some key components to securing assembly area doors into the school.

For full solutions, specifications and recommendations, **contact us**.



1



Panic hardware is often required by fire and life safety codes (i-Codes, NFPA). Adding electric latch retraction tied into the fire alarm enables quick lockdown of these doors in cases of emergency.

2



A **door closer** with an **electrified hold-open** will hold doors open between classes or after hours as needed, while allowing them to be able to automatically return to a closed, latched and secure position when class starts, the event is over or in case of an emergency.

3



Consider using **hollow metal doors and frames** for increased security, durability and strong lock reinforcements.

Other solutions not shown above



Visual indicators are recommended on the panic devices for easy identification of the lock status of the door.



Assembly areas often have other rooms that connect to them, such as practice rooms or offices. **Electronic locks** can provide a higher level of security, while allowing scheduled lock and unlock times, tracking access to who uses the rooms and when, and preventing student mischief when no one should be in these areas.



Fire door assemblies are required for openings in rated walls and need to comply with NFPA 80.

Security tips for specific applications

Gymnasiums

- In some states, assembly areas may double as storm shelters or be required in new construction. For these applications, choose products that are assembly tested and certified against tornadoes and/or hurricanes.
- Often, gyms have heavy duty steel doors to hold up to wear and tear.
- Electronic locks in the locker room and coach's office can provide a higher level of security to prevent student mischief and theft. Schedule times to automatically lock and unlock doors and know who accessed those areas.

Auditoriums and music rooms

- Sound control (STC) doors, gasketing and quiet hardware can improve acoustics and eliminate disruption during practices and performance.
- Electronic locks on practice rooms can be automatically scheduled to lock and unlock doors to allow students access for practice, but control access when the space should be unoccupied.

Media centers and libraries

- Media centers often house computers and other technology that require a higher level of security. Electronic locks can provide improved access control, automatic schedules for when the door is locked and unlocked and creates an audit trail of who accessed the area and when.
- Creating a single point of entry in these areas increase security and is easier to lock down in emergencies.
- Sound control (STC) doors, gasketing and quiet hardware can reduce noise in these areas often used for studying.

Cafeteria

- Like other assembly areas, cafeterias should have doors that can be quickly secured from inside the room for lockdown in emergencies and safe haven areas identified.



Code considerations:

- 2021 IBC, section 423.5 for Group E (educational) occupancies, states that areas where the shelter design wind speed for tornadoes is 250 mph in accordance with Figure 304.2(1) of ICC 500, all Group E occupancies with an occupant load of 50 or more shall have a storm shelter constructed in accordance with ICC 500.

Recommendations from commission reports:

The following security recommendations are from past incident reports and the security industry.

- Shared space shall have separate, secure and controllable entrances. (Sandy Hook page 58)
- The design of shared space should prevent unauthorized access to the rest of the school. (Sandy Hook page 58)
- The design of shared space should allow for monitoring points of entry and egress. (Sandy Hook page 58)
- Be sure all assembly area openings are ADA compliant.
- Safe Haven areas should be established for shared spaces. (Sandy Hook page 55, MSD page 85, FED page 124, PASS page 66)
- Redundant 2-way radios should be in every classroom and student assembly area. (Sandy Hook page 56, MSD page 347, PASS page 68)

Sandy Hook Final Report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, 03/2015, "Key Safe School Infrastructure Standards", page 73, Exterior Doors)
MSD Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School Public Safety Commission, 01/02/2019 **FED** Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety, 12/18/2018 **PASS** PASS Guidelines, 6th Edition, 2023



To contact an Allegion security consultant, visit
us.allegion.com/schoolsecurity

About Allegion

Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) is a global pioneer in seamless access, with leading brands like CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage®, SimonsVoss® and Von Duprin®. Focusing on security around the door and adjacent areas, Allegion secures people and assets with a range of solutions for homes, businesses, schools and institutions.

For more, visit www.allegion.com

KRYPTONITE ■ LCN ■  ■ STEELCRAFT ■ VON DUPRIN



ALLEGION

© 2023 Allegion
015658, Rev. 07/23
www.allegion.com/us