



Active Shooter Building Codes

Current Law

Currently there are no statewide active shooter building codes for schools.

Problem

School construction in many locations does not adequately address the very real threat of an active shooter on campus. Lack of door locks that do not require a key, glass walls around classroom and offices, lack of security cameras in key locations and lack of fully functional PA systems are indicators that regulation is needed. The Houston Commission on Gun Violence recommends legislation that mandates the establishment of active shooter building codes, and that Independent School Districts update their existing infrastructure in a manner that mitigates the threat of school shootings.

Proposed Legislative Change

All new school buildings should as a minimum standard have:

1. Doors that lock from the inside, without a key, and can be unlocked and opened from the inside, without a key, once locked. (cost neutral)
2. No classrooms should utilize glass or other transparent material as a wall(s) for classrooms or administrative offices. This does not preclude having windows that must have blinds or curtains that block view when needed. (cost neutral)
3. All classes must be held within a classroom, or have a safe haven immediately nearby, should danger arise. The only exception would be athletic functions held outdoors. (cost neutral)
4. All school campuses must have a fully functional PA system, tested regularly, which reaches all classrooms and hallways which can be used to warn occupants of danger. (cost neutral)

5. All campuses must have an Active Shooter medical kit available in the main office to include tourniquets, bandages and other supplies typically needed to treat major trauma. (approximately \$300 per school)

6. All school campuses must have an adequate number of security cameras covering all entrances and hallways. The video feed should be readily available to the ISD Police Department. If there is no police department for the ISD, the video should feed to the dispatch center of the local police department responsible for responding to an emergency. (cost neutral for most larger school districts)