

# SECURITY PROTOCOLS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

“Going to school” has changed in the past two decades. What was once as simple as entering a building, attending classes, and socializing with friends all changed in the United States on April 20, 1999. On that day, two students gunned down classmates at Columbine High School in Colorado, killing 13 people and wounding 20 others. According to *The Washington Post*, as of August 27, 2018, there have been shootings at 217 schools since Columbine. In those assaults, at least 141 children, educators, and other people have been killed, and another 287 have been injured. Overall, more than 215,000 students have experienced gun violence at school since Columbine\*. Because of these facts, schools must not only be concerned with preparing their students academically for the their future, but also ensuring that they have a future to prepare for. Safety and security protocols have been constructed to make schools safe, and the success of these measures is the responsibility of the entire school community: administration, faculty, staff, and students.

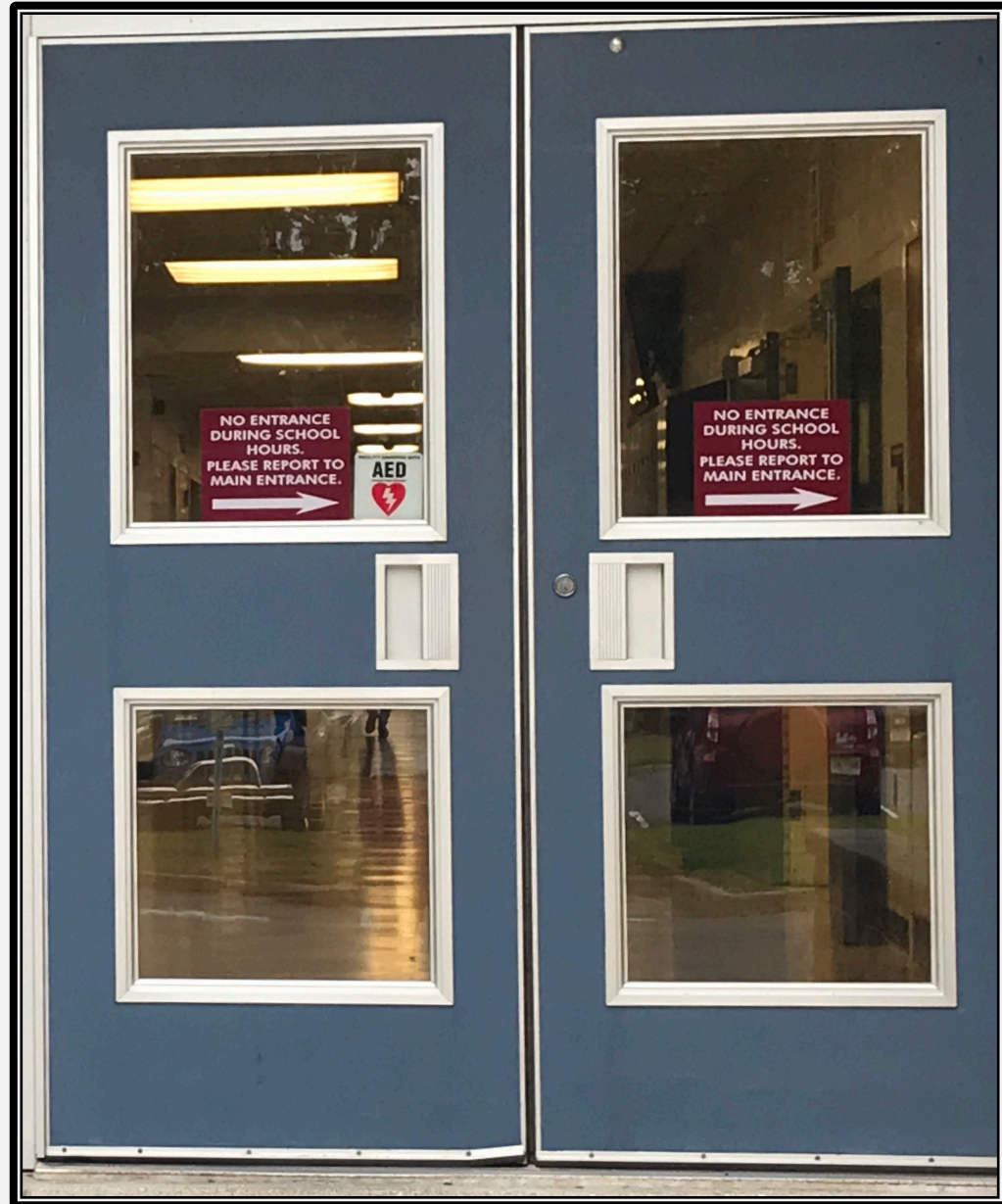
\* Cox, John Woodrow, Steven Rich, Allyson Chiu, John Muyskens, and Monical Ulmanu. “More than 215,000 students have experienced gun violence at school since Columbine. *The Washington Post*. 27 August 2018. [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com). Accessed 19 September 2018.



STREAMLINING ENTRY INTO THE BUILDING IS IMPORTANT; IT ALLOWS FOR EASIER RECOGNITION OF WHO IS ENTERING THE BUILDING AT A GIVEN TIME. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY, STUDENTS MAY ENTER THE BUILDING THROUGH ONLY THREE DESIGNATED ENTRIES. TWO ARE AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL, WHERE THE BUSES DROP OFF.

IN THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL, AT THE PARENT DROP-OFF AREA, SIGNS ARE SET UP SO PARENTS CAN CLEARLY SEE WHERE THEY ARE TO DRIVE, AND TO KEEP STUDENTS FROM ENTERING WHERE THEY SHOULDN'T.

AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY, TWO OF THE THREE STUDENT ENTRANCES ARE LOCKED, LEAVING ONLY ONE ENTRANCE FOR VISITORS AND TARDY STUDENTS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.



STREAMLINING ENTRY INTO THE BUILDING IS IMPORTANT; IT ALLOWS FOR EASIER RECOGNITION OF WHO IS ENTERING THE BUILDING AT A GIVEN TIME.

SIGNAGE IS POSTED ON EACH DOOR AT THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING POINTING VISITORS TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE DURING SCHOOL HOURS.





AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL CAN ENTER THROUGH DESIGNATED DOORS DURING SCHOOL HOURS THROUGH THE USE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION-APPROVED ELECTRONIC FOBS. THE FOBS ARE PROGRAMMED TO WORK ON DESIGNATED DOOR DURING SCHOOL HOURS, AND THE ADMINISTRATION KEEPS A RECORD OF WHICH FOBS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBER.

HERE, A PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER USES HIS FOB AT THE GYMNASIUM ENTRANCE TO BRING HIS CLASS BACK INTO THE BUILDING AT THE END OF THE PERIOD.





LIMITING ENTRY TO SCHOOL PREMISES DURING SCHOOL HOURS IS ANOTHER SECURITY MEASURE. AFTER THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CREWS CLOSE AND LOCK ALL BUT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO TRAFFIC.

AT LEFT, GATES TO THE REAR ENTRANCE ARE CLOSED AND PADLOCKED.





HAVING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS ON CAMPUS REINFORCES THE DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO KEEPING THE STUDENTS SAFE.

THE OFFICERS' PRESENCE ON CAMPUS IS OBVIOUS TO VISITORS AS WELL AS TO ANYONE WHO WOULD ENTER THE BUILDING TO DO HARM, WITH TWO POLICE VEHICLES PARKED PROMINENTLY AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE.



HAVING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS ON CAMPUS REINFORCES THE DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO KEEPING THE STUDENTS SAFE.

THE OFFICERS' POST IS JUST INSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE. AT THE CHECK-IN DESK, VISITORS MUST SIGN IN AND SHOW A PHOTO ID. THAT ID IS SCANNED AND VISITORS ARE GIVEN A PHOTO VISITOR TAG THAT THEY MUST WEAR WHILE IN THE BUILDING. ANYONE ON CAMPUS WITHOUT THIS PROMINENT PHOTO IDENTIFICATION IS TO BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICERS.





PHOTO IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED OF ALL PERSONS ON CAMPUS, AS A SECURITY MEASURE TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE BUILDING, BUT TO MORE EASILY RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE BUILDING.

ALL STUDENTS ARE GIVEN A SCHOOL-ISSUED ID WITH THEIR NAME, PICTURE, GRADE LEVEL, SCHOOL YEAR, AND LUNCH CODE ON THE FRONT. THEY ARE ALSO ISSUED A LANYARD ON WHICH THEY CAN DISPLAY THEIR ID.





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STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR THEIR ID BADGES WHILE ON CAMPUS. THEY SHOULD BE CLEARLY VISIBLE. STUDENT COMPLIANCE IS SPORADIC, BUT THE RULES ARE ENFORCED. HERE, STUDENTS WALK THE HALLS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL. ONE CAN SEE THAT SOME STUDENT WEAR THEIR IDS AS DIRECTED, WHILE OTHERS DO NOT.

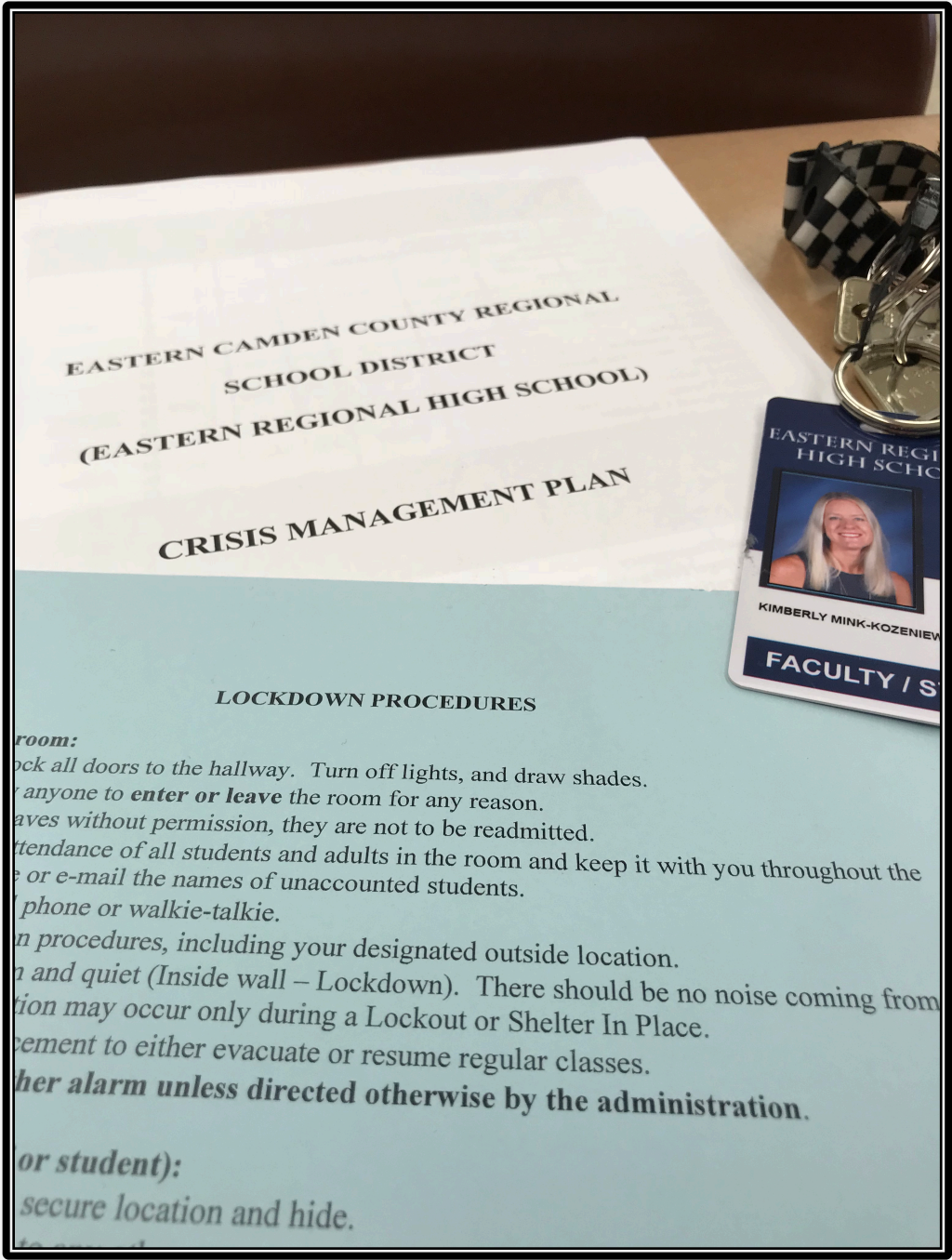




ALL PERSONS ON CAMPUS ARE ALSO POTENTIALLY UNDER ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AT ALL TIMES. ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE ACTS SIMULTANEOUSLY AS A DETERRENT TO PROHIBITED ACTIVITY AS WELL AS A DEVICE TO CAPTURE IMAGES OF THOSE WHO MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.

ABOVE LEFT, A SIGN POSTED AT ONE ENTRANCE INFORMS VISITORS ABOUT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE ON CAMPUS. ABOVE RIGHT, CAMERA "BUBBLES" SUCH AS THESE ARE NOTICEABLE THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING (LARGE CAMERA IN FOREGROUND; THREE SMALLER CAMERAS IN A LINE ALONG THE WALL BEHIND THE LARGE CAMERA).





DESPITE LOCKED DOORS AND GATES, POLICE PRESENCE, PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION, AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, DANGER CAN STILL FIND ITS WAY INTO THE SCHOOL BUILDING. THE BURDEN OF STUDENT SAFETY FALLS ON THE FACULTY, AND PREPARING TEACHERS TO HANDLE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS THAT CAN ARISE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

EVERY TEACHER MUST READ THE CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND KNOW THE LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES. THESE ARE ALSO KEPT IN A CLASSROOM FOLDER FOR TEACHER SUBSTITUTES TO HAVE, IF NEEDED. IN ADDITION TO FIRE EVACUATION DRILLS, SCHOOLS MUST CONDUCT EMERGENCY DRILLS EVERY MONTH – LOCKOUT, SHELTER IN PLACE, LOCKOUT – SO THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCEDURES THAT COULD POTENTIALLY SAVE THEIR LIVES.