



## Safety & Security in Schools Fact Sheet

### Safety & Security

- **Safety** is the state of being “safe”, the condition on being protected against physical, social, spiritual, financial, political, emotional, occupational, psychological, educational, or other types of failure, damage, error, accidents, harm, or event which could be considered non-desirable. Safety can also be defined to be the control of recognized hazards to achieve an acceptable level of risk.
- **Security** is the degree of protection to safeguard people against danger, damage, loss, and crime.

### Design Factors that Impact Security

- Manage access to the facility
  - Exterior doors remain locked during school hours
  - Visitors check-in at office upon arrival
  - Natural surveillance opportunities
    - Staff able to monitor exterior grounds from inside facility
  - Adequate and appropriate lighting
    - Exterior lighting in parking lots and around entrances/exits
    - Interior lighting in bathrooms, hallways, locker rooms

### Other Safety Concerns

- Chemical Safety
  - Classrooms, science labs, custodial closets, and storage areas
    - The most common safety issue observed in elementary classrooms involves the storage of hazardous and toxic chemicals in the cabinet below the sink, often times next to party supplies.
- Electrical Safety
  - Science labs, technology areas, industrial technology, and near water sources
- Slips, Trips, and Falls
  - Design flaws, facility deterioration, occupancy-related concerns

### Playground Safety

- Children with asthma allowed to visit nurse prior to physical activity for treatment to prevent an asthma attack
- A playground monitor is always present with some form of communication
- Spacing of equipment to prevent injuries
- Bar spacing, step height, padding in appropriate locations have all been considered and meet CPSC standards

