

Physical Security Practices



SCHOOL SAFETY



BUSINESS SAFETY



EVENT SAFETY

Purpose

- Have a basic understanding of physical security and its 3 pillars.
- To generally understand what minimums you should expect from your physical security team.
- Have a basic understanding of the best common practices for physical security on a school campus.
- To understand your role as it relates to campus security.



Resources

- [Rand Corporation Systems Approach to Physical Security](#)
- [ASIS Standards and Guidelines](#)
- [Department of Homeland Security: K-12 School Security](#)
- [School Safety and Security Measures](#)
- [School Administrators teaching Safety](#)



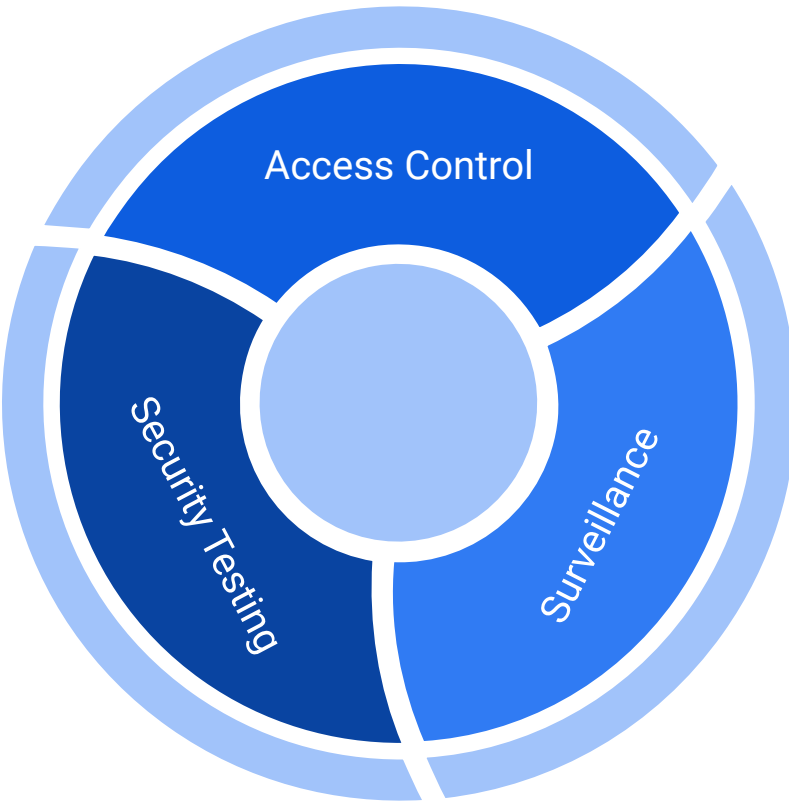
What is Physical Security?

Physical security is the protection of people, property, and physical assets from actions and events that could cause damage or loss.

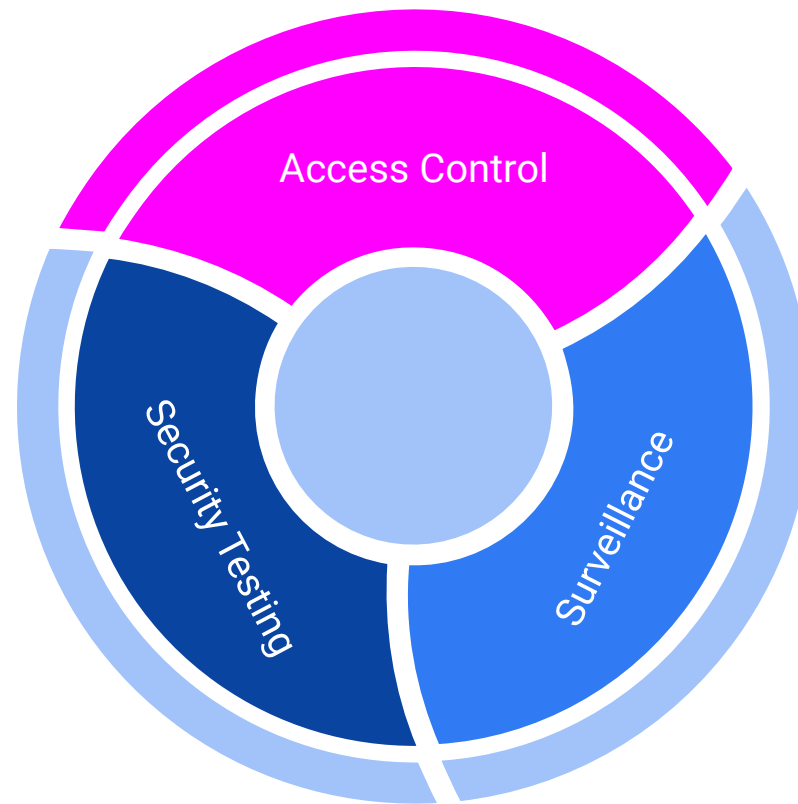
“Boring is good”



PILLARS OF PHYSICAL SECURITY



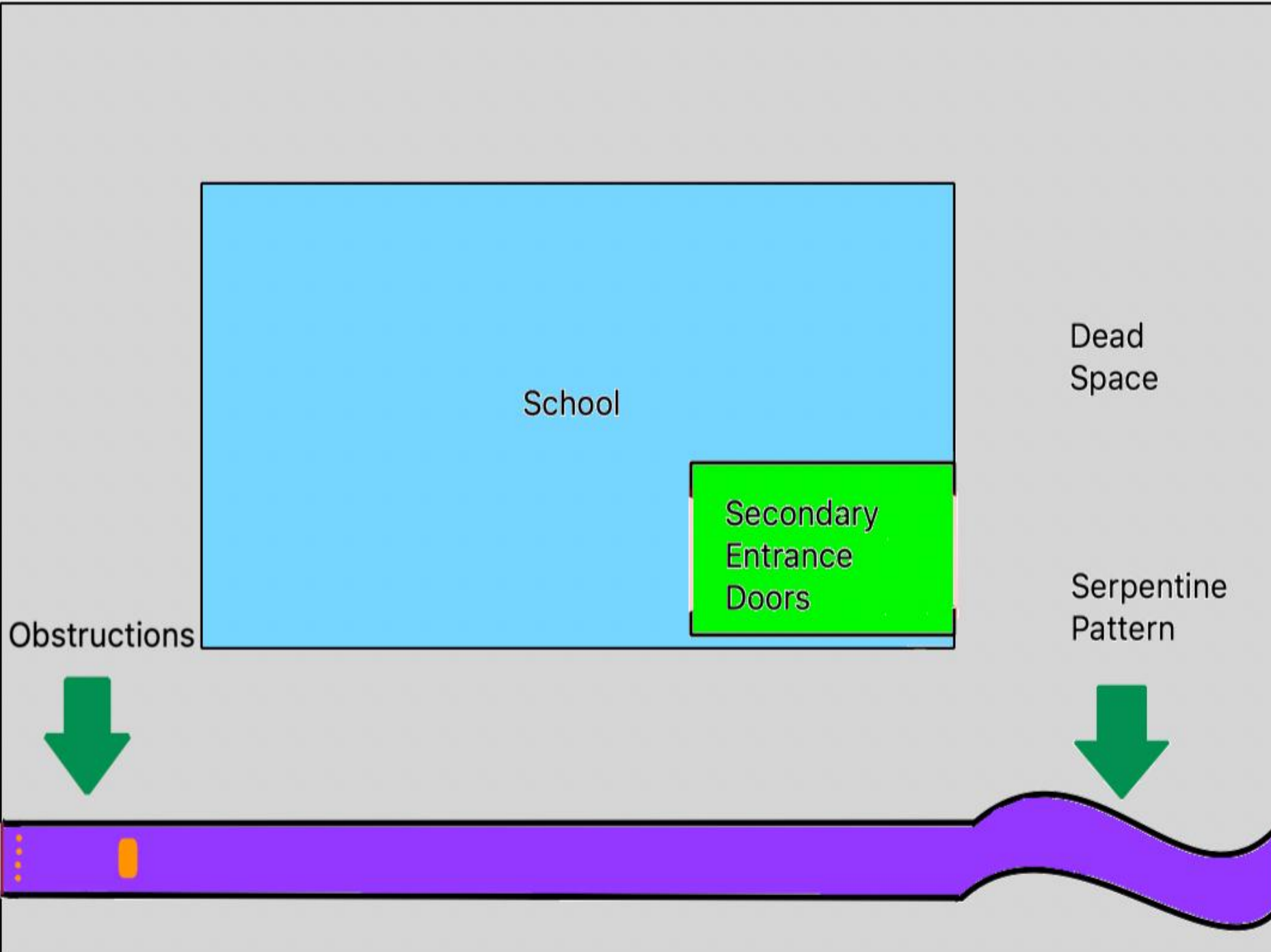
Access Control



Structural Components

- Exterior
 - Fences, gates, dead space, locks, exterior doors, windows, entry/exit design, serpentine arrival, speed bumps, bollards, signage, etc.
- Interior
 - Locked doors, secondary entry doors at main entrance, signage for check in, lobby or waiting area, emergency exit only signs, etc.





Systems

- Visitor management system
 - Displays visitor status on person
- Key fob or badge system for entry
- Automated attendance system
 - Students, vendors, and staff
- Weapons abatement system
- Unauthorized visitor and contraband protocol
- Standardized single entry and separate single exit doors
- Door alarms
- Duress buttons

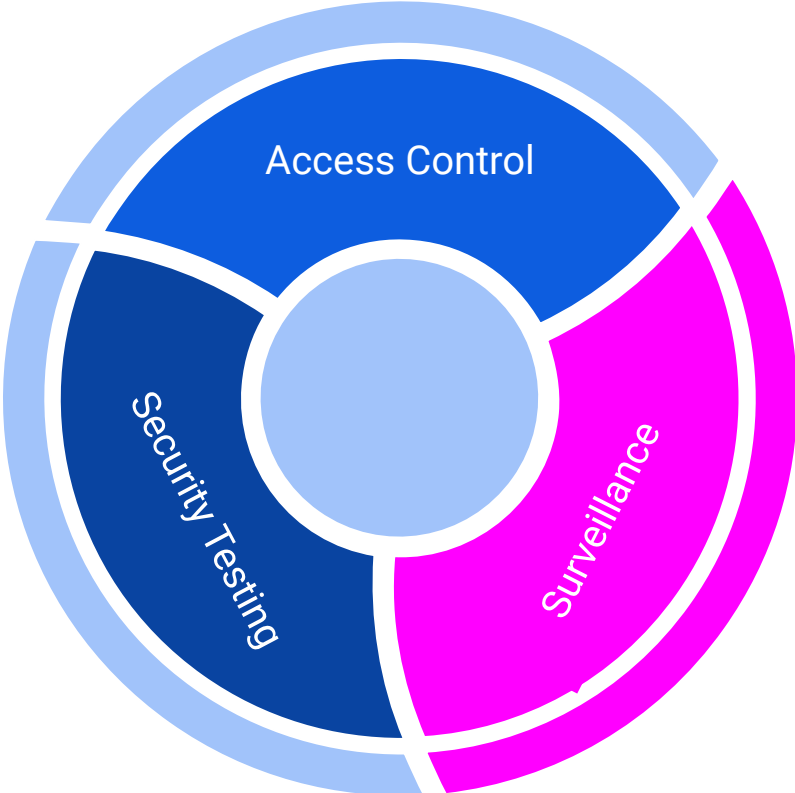


People

- Security personnel
 - Internal, vendor, staff, volunteers
- Local police department
- Operations team
- School leadership
- Staff
- Parents
- Students
- Vendors
- Visitors



PILLARS OF PHYSICAL SECURITY



Structural Components

- Cameras
- Badge/fob readers
- Door/window and glass-break sensors
- Alarms
- PA system
- Phones
- Signage
- Dedicated security network
- 2-way speaker at gate entry
- Lighting



Systems

- Guard management software
 - Preferably one that has physical tags that can be placed around campus to verify rounds/tours
 - Also able to automate reports and compile aggregates
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Auditable management systems for entry and notification devices
- Push notifications
- Activity logs
- Schedules of events

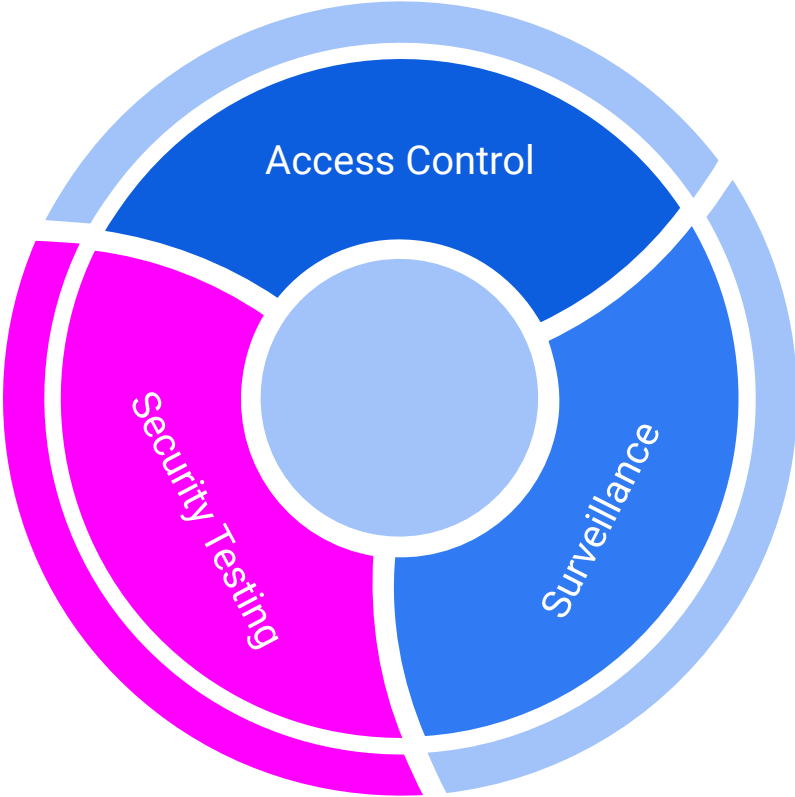


People

- Security personnel
 - Internal, vendor, staff, volunteers
- Local police department
- Operations team
- School leadership
- Staff
- Parents
- Students
- Vendors
- Visitors



PILLARS OF PHYSICAL SECURITY



Testing

- Drill
- Penetration testing (“Pen Test” or “Red Teaming”)
- Drill
- Quarterly Review of SOPs
- Drill
- Equipment testing
- Drill
- Consistent staff training
- Drill



Regarding testing...

... I think you get the point



People

- Security personnel
 - Internal, vendor, staff, volunteers
- Local police department
- Operations team
- School leadership
- Staff
- Parents
- Students
- Vendors
- Visitors



So what does my security team do?

Manage
and
Execute



Best practices for security team structure

- There should be an onsite manager
- Team should have consistent oversight
- Full access to security management systems
- Provide consistent reporting
- Direct line of communication to a designated representative, as well as a secondary representative at the very least
- Familiarity with all staff and vendors
- Familiarity with students
- Have a feel for culture and events of the school community
- Have school pride



Best practices for daily security activities

- “Hard exterior, soft interior” mentality
- Be the first ones in, and the last ones out
- Any given point on campus should be visually and physically checked at least once per hour
 - This includes perimeter walks to thoroughly investigate external status
- Visible to onlookers
- Record/report any “anomalies” each time they’re seen
- Direct or assist in vehicular/pedestrian traffic control
- Be integral to arrivals and dismissals
- Be the first to challenge anything out of the ordinary



There is a small, but very important caveat

None of this works if the school treats the security program, infrastructure, and most importantly the team, as an afterthought.

The goal is not to insert security with the idea that it will solve all problems deemed necessary under their charge, but rather to integrate a cohesive robust security program into the community of the school as it exists overall.



Thought experiment



Thought Experiment



Who is responsible for the success of a school security program?

You



Summary

- We have a basic understanding of physical security and it's 3 pillars
- We understand what to expect of our physical security team
- We know the common best practices for physical security on a school campus
- We now know our role as it relates to school security

