

HOW TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE MULTI-LAYERED SCHOOL SECURITY PLAN

What school administrators and teachers should consider to help keep students safe from an active shooter.



ZEROEYES

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SECURING OUR SCHOOLS TOGETHER

No parent willingly chooses to put their child in danger when it comes to sending them to school, and no school faculty wants to face the threat of an active shooter situation in their classrooms. However, terrible examples of recent active shooter situations show us that securing our schools is a critical problem that requires a multi-layered solution.

In a study of 160 active shooter incidents in the United States between 2000 and 2013, the FBI found that incidents in educational facilities account for some of the higher casualty counts on record, such as in the Sandy Hook, Newtown Connecticut, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University shootings.

Since 1970 there have been

1644

school shootings

598

fatalities

1612

injuries

(Center for Homeland Defense and Security)

Given the countless mass shootings that have occurred – and continue to happen – it's clear that a proactive plan is needed to help keep students and staff safe. ***Critical minutes matter.***

Throughout this informational eBook, you'll learn what to include in a school security plan, what school board members need to know when looking at gun detection solutions, what to do during an active shooter situation, and how to make meaningful changes with our School Safety and Security Checklist.

HOW TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE MULTI-LAYERED SCHOOL SECURITY PLAN

WHAT SHOULD YOU INCLUDE IN YOUR SCHOOL SECURITY PLAN?

When evaluating your school security system, keep in mind that most systems are reactive; alarms go off and people begin running for safety only after shots are fired. The best security systems are proactive, preventing or identifying potential threats before danger strikes. But you have to strike a healthy balance. Children need to feel safe but not be in a state of fear due to overly restrictive measures. People's privacy and dignity need to be respected while ensuring their safety.

Start with a Vulnerability Assessment

First ask yourself questions: What are the sources of threats on our campus? Consider students, teachers, disgruntled employees, and visitors. Are you in an urban or rural setting? How would threat-actors enter your campus and how long would it take for first responders to arrive in case of an emergency?

Next, do a thorough evaluation of your campus, both the exterior (parking lots, playgrounds, playing fields, etc.) and interior. What are the points of entry? What sort of security or protocols are in place?

Examine current systems, procedures, and protocols. Evaluate for weaknesses in the system, blind spots or hiding places, insufficient lighting, lack of compliance to procedures by staff, and the age and functionality of existing technology.

To help you do a thorough vulnerability assessment, use one of the many resources available online or enlist the help of your local emergency responders or a vulnerability consultant. However, make sure the consultant is not associated with a particular company or product in order to ensure complete impartiality in the advice he or she gives you.

Aspects of Your School Security System

To “target harden” your location – that is, to make your location a very difficult target so that the potential bad actor decides it’s not worth the effort – up-to-date, properly functioning technology is your first line of defense. But it’s not enough by itself. School security requires a multi-pronged approach:

- ✓ **Physical security measures on campus:** Sufficient lighting in parking lots and around the exterior of buildings; removal of bushes that may block the view of security cameras or supply hiding places for bad actors; obstacles that deter easy entrance or easy getaway; locks or bars on windows; security doors with limited access; perimeter security and after-hours security.
- ✓ **Technology:** Intrusion detection systems; security cameras at every point of access and in hallways; a gun detection system such as ZeroEyes which detects visible guns immediately, instantly alerts key staff and first responders and tracks the shooter through the campus so security personnel can easily find and neutralize the threat.
- ✓ **Lockdown system:** The ability to remotely lock down various wings in the event of the need to shelter in place and isolate a threat.
- ✓ **Communications:** Technology (such as ZeroEyes) to immediately contact first responders in the event of a threat; protocols for contacting teachers, students, and parents in the event of danger.
- ✓ **Protocols, procedures, and training:** Clearly defined procedures for following safety rules; Emergency Response Plans that have been practiced by staff and students in conjunction with local first responders.

Incident Review

Sandy Hook Elementary

Nothing can fully prepare school officials or students for how to react to an active shooter scenario. The people who survived the horrific Sandy Hook Elementary shooting didn’t have any military training, putting them at an extreme disadvantage in the critical minutes between when the first shots were fired and when police arrived on the scene.



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WHAT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW WHEN LOOKING AT GUN DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

Over 187,000 students in grades K-12 have experienced school shootings since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999. School boards struggle to find the best methods of ensuring the safety of their students while balancing other issues such as accuracy, cost, privacy issues, and legal liability.

Some gun detection systems risk opening up the school to lawsuits because they indiscriminately scan individuals or provide facial recognition. These programs are under scrutiny for privacy law infractions and may lead to legal action. They also increase the risk of false positives by misidentifying harmless objects as weapons, which can also lead to legal problems.

When a board of education is looking for gun detection technology, they should look for the following criteria:

- ✓ **A solution from developers** who are experts in the field of weaponry and emergency situations
- ✓ **A system that specializes** in gun detection, rather than offering high-risk facial recognition (which have both political and ethical concerns in K12 institutions) or multiple services of questionable quality
- ✓ **A company that provides** immediate warnings and ongoing, real-time data to first responders to help them neutralize the threat, along with real-time collaboration with experts in weaponry and emergency response
- ✓ **A system that integrates** into your current security system, thus providing cost-effectiveness along with safety



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HOW TO HANDLE A LOCKDOWN DUE TO AN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT

Your first step to school safety is to complete a thorough threat assessment, involving your local first responders and public safety partners – police, fire department, and emergency medical services. Your threat assessment will evaluate your school's vulnerabilities so you can make changes to your property, your security systems, and your protocols to help keep your staff and students safe in the event of an active shooter incident.



1.

Start by ensuring that your grounds are as secure as possible and that your security cameras cover every entrance point and hallway. This will be critical information during a shooter attack, especially if you have ZeroEyes AI integrated with your cameras to immediately identify a visible gun and then track the gun through your campus. With ZeroEyes installed, this information will then be automatically transmitted to first responders and administrators so they will know exactly where the shooter is. Knowing the shooter's location will enable them to take quick action to eliminate the threat.

2.

Administrators, teachers, and your crisis team members should meet 2-3 times per year to review how well safety protocols are being followed and strengthen or adjust them as needed. Ideally, a representative from your local response team should also be present to give you professional guidance and receive updated information about your protocols. Local police should have a floor plan of your school, with doors numbered so that it will be easy to communicate locations in an emergency situation.

3.

Regular drills should be implemented; however, it is important to be very sensitive to the emotional fallout of drills. Studies are showing that very realistic drills can leave students and even teachers traumatized for months.

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What Administrators and Teachers Should Do During a Lockdown

Unfortunately, a shooter's presence on school property is often unknown until shots are fired. This is why a gun detection system is so valuable. Being alerted to the presence of a shooter before shots are fired can provide teachers, students, and first responders valuable time that can save lives.

As soon as a shooter's presence is known, administrators should implement the planned protocols, which should include announcements or alerts so teachers can immediately put emergency plans into action. Administrators should be able to lock down areas of the building remotely to keep the shooter from moving into other areas. If you do not have a gun detection solution to automatically contact law enforcement, emergency calls need to be made right away.

Teachers should be well-versed in the emergency plans and should evaluate the best option – Run, Hide, or Fight – depending on how close the shooter is. If they choose to run, they should lead their students as quickly as possible to the predetermined exit, but must be aware of students who may have special needs and will require help. If they choose to hide, they should direct the students to appropriate hiding places and instruct them to be completely silent, still, and turn off their phones. Barricade the door and turn out the lights if possible.

Fighting is a last resort, but if necessary, it should be as aggressive as possible. The shooter's surprise at being resisted may give others the chance needed to overpower him or escape.

What Students Should Do During a Lockdown

Students should be thoroughly drilled on the importance of following the teachers' lead during an emergency situation. The necessity of staying absolutely quiet and still and turning off phones when hiding must be emphasized. Though we don't normally want to encourage violence, the Run, Hide, or Fight options need to be clearly outlined and practiced, in a manner that protects the participants' emotional health while giving them valuable training.

Decisions need to be made based on the school's layout regarding what students should do if they are in the bathroom when a lockdown occurs. Generally, it is suggested they turn off the bathroom light, hide, and stay absolutely quiet.

Be Prepared

Seconds count in a shooting scenario. Your teachers and students need the shooter to be stopped as soon as possible, especially if they are hiding. The constantly evolving nature of active shooter situations requires immediate, real-time information to end a conflict quickly.

Learn more about adding layers to your school security with our ZeroEyes School Safety and Security Checklist on page 14.

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THE ZEROEYES EDUCATION SECURITY DIFFERENCE

ZeroEyes provides school boards and administrators with the balance of security, accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and legality you need to help keep your students protected.

At ZeroEyes, our mission is to make schools and other institutions safe by providing the highest quality, state-of-the-art gun-detection system that respects people’s privacy while working proactively to warn you and local first responders before the first shot is fired.

ZeroEyes AI Gun Detection system alerts first-responders, on-site security, and administrators immediately upon detecting a visible gun. With this information, safety protocols can be immediately implemented, wings of the building can be locked down, and real-time data about the shooter can be relayed directly to the first responders, using ZeroEyes technology, to end the threat quickly.

The ZeroEyes Proactive Solution



Proprietary, real-world and comprehensive datasets. Our team uses an extensive, labor-intensive, trial-and-error process that involves testing our technology at shopping malls, office parks and schools, rather than relying on online footage. From there, a comprehensive dataset with thousands of images/videos is constructed to continuously train our AI weapons detection model.



Extensive military experience totaling over 50 years. As military veterans who have been involved in countless active shooter situations, our experience not only allows us to know exactly what a first responder needs when responding to a threat, but also gives us extreme credibility with law enforcement, security personnel, school administrators and other customers.



Exclusive focus on weapons detection. ZeroEyes does not use facial recognition or another other type of object recognition detection. We focus solely on identifying guns at first sight, not first shot.



Training and collaboration with local first responders and customers. We understand that if alerts are not given in a meaningful way, then they will not be used. We partner with 911 dispatch to send alerts to them directly, and conduct extensive drills involving the customer and first responders before our solution is fully installed.

Case Study: ZeroEyes Demonstrates Its Weapon Detection Technology for Rancocas Valley Regional High School

To demonstrate the abilities of the ZeroEyes DeepZero™ gun detection technology, the ZeroEyes team supported a series of active shooter drills at Rancocas Valley Regional High School (RVRHS) in Mount Holly, NJ.

Over the course of two days, approximately 60 police officers from six local townships participated in scripted drills that utilized multiple “active shooter” scenarios and responded to tasking from Burlington County 9-1-1 dispatch.

The ZeroEyes FirstSight™ platform was integrated into RVRHS’s existing security camera system. The platform uses an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm to conduct real-time weapons detection and triggers automatic alerts to school security, faculty, and local police. For the first time, the ZeroEyes platform was also integrated into local 9-1-1 Dispatch, allowing for continuous real-time alerts, suspect descriptions, and situational intelligence to flow directly to responding officers.

The drills were conducted iteratively – the first set of drills did not employ the ZeroEyes platform, and responding officers had to rely on simulated 9-1-1 calls and role-player interaction to determine the location of the threat.

During the second set of drills, which used the ZeroEyes platform, responding officers interacted directly with their 9-1-1 Dispatch to locate and neutralize the threat in real-time.

Key Outcomes from the Exercise

1.

On average, the response time (from first notification of an active shooter to first contact with the active shooter) was reduced by 50% when using the ZeroEyes platform.

2.

9-1-1 Dispatch, using the ZeroEyes platform, was able to continuously update responding officers on suspect location, physical description, weapon type, and disposition, which resulted in demonstrable improvement in tactical situational awareness by responding units.

3.

Utilizing the ZeroEyes platform, 9-1-1 Dispatch was able to conduct real-time forensics, which ultimately resulted in identifying a shooter hiding among students.

“[ZeroEyes is] another layer with the other things that we already have in place to make this the safest place possible.”

*Dr. Chris Heilig
Superintendent, Rancocas
County, NJ*

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THE ZEROEYES SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY CHECKLIST

Unfortunately, someone who's a possible threat only needs to find one entry point, or one weak link, to enter a building and pose a dangerous risk. In the case of an active shooter, seconds count. It is far better to be proactive and identify a potential threat before shots are fired, to lock down the premises, and give law enforcement the critical intelligence they need to neutralize the threat as quickly as possible.

Follow this checklist and consider if these measures are in place to ensure the safety of your schools:

- Access Control
- Locks and Deterrents for Windows and Doors
- Building Design and Infrastructure
- Exterior and Interior Vulnerabilities
- Comprehensive List of Threats, Both Probable and Improbable
- Physical Premises Vulnerability Assessment
- Physical Barriers
- Exterior Lighting
- Visual Obstacles to Cameras
- Security Technology
- Reactive and Proactive Security Response
- Security Systems
- Identify Potential Threat Actors
- Create a Security Strategy
- Safety Protocols
- Safety Training for Staff and Students
- Evacuation Plans
- Security Compliance



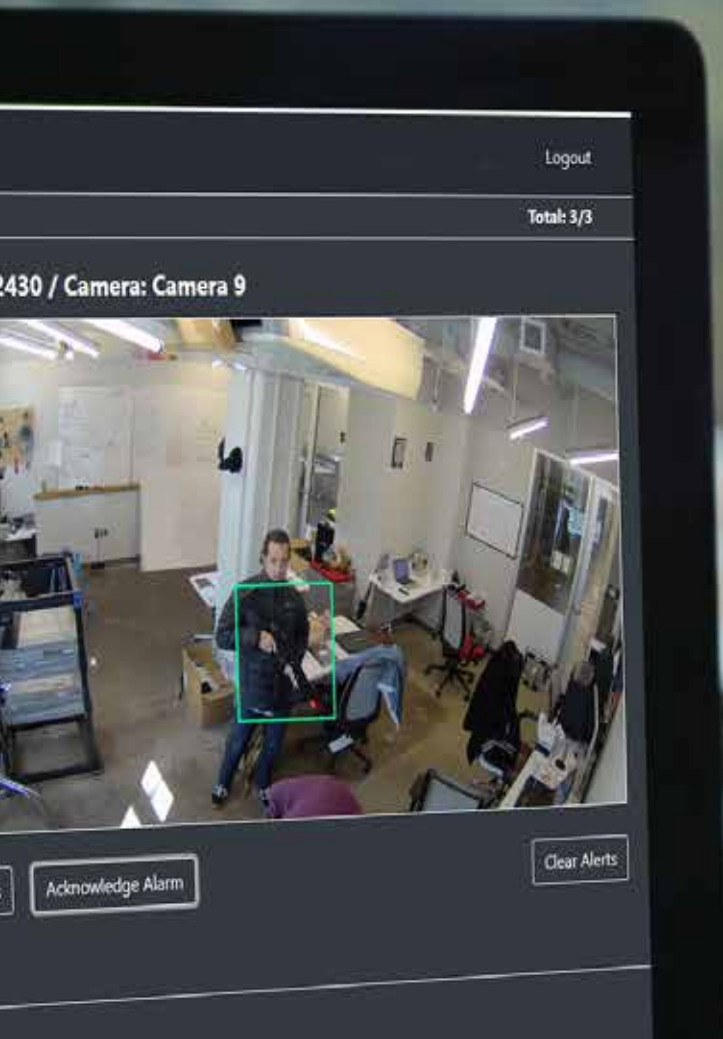
24/7 Education Security Monitoring

ZeroEyes proprietary technology, DeepZero™ is an added layer of security, but our human monitoring – in addition to our AI technology – is what set us apart from others. To reduce false positives, every alert goes through our human monitoring centers so that we can verify the detection of any weapon before triggering real-time alerts and safety protocols.

The ZeroEyes Operation Control Center is manned 24/7 by military-trained experts who monitor every alert to verify the AI platform. Once a threat is verified, can notify appropriate security personnel and first responders. This verification process takes between 3-5 seconds.



Contact ZeroEyes at marketing@zeroeyes.com for a demonstration to determine how we can enhance your existing school security plans. Plus, visit www.ZeroEyes.com to learn more about how our DeepZero™ gun detection AI can help you identify the location of an active shooter, dramatically improve response time and situational awareness for first responders, and help keep your staff, students and campuses safe.



CONTACT ZEROEYES

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