

School Security: Windows and Doors – Protecting Students and Staff

The request:

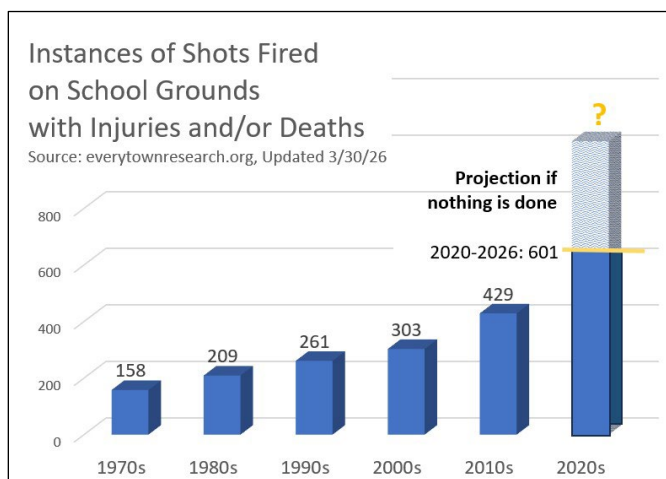
Support and pass the Securing Aid for Every (SAFE) School Act, H.R. 8506.

Support and pass the National Strategy for School Security Act of 2025, S. 3472.

The issue:

Active shooter events are becoming more frequent.

In 2026 alone, there have been 32 incidents of gunfire on school grounds, resulting in 15 deaths and 15 injuries.



Time is critical.

The average length of active shooter events is 8 minutes; the shortest is 90 seconds. Response times for first responders average 3 minutes, so some active shooter events are over even before first responders arrive.

Building codes and mandates for school security glazing systems currently do not exist at national levels

In comparison, every building is subject to fire codes and regulations because of (relatively smaller numbers of) historic deaths in building fires.

Since the adoption and enforcement of the fire codes, the number of deaths from fires has dramatically decreased.



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The strategy:

Make schools safer with security, ballistic, and attack resistant windows and doors.

In active shooter events, windows and doors can be the first line of defense. Security glazing resistant to forced entry can be used to slow down an attacker, allowing more time for schools to enact emergency plans and for first responders to arrive.

High risk areas of educational facilities include entry vestibules, exterior first floor classroom windows and doors, along with interior doors and access points.

Third-party tested glazing systems are available.

ASTM F3561 *Standard Test Method for Forced-Entry-Resistance of Fenestration Systems after Simulated Active Shooter Attack* serves as the industry-accepted standard for minimum criteria for security windows and doors for schools.

Window and Door Solutions:

- Serve as a significant impediment to entry while allowing school personnel and first responders visual assessment of impending danger.
- Protective solutions are available that provide benefits of natural daylighting and line of sight.
- Can be designed for forced entry resistance and bullet-resistance.
- Systems are available at various protection and cost levels for retrofit or new installations.
- Create a secure environment for teachers and students without imposing visible barriers.
- Provide passive protection, even during power outages.

Glass must be part of a school's security plan as an element of protection.

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References:

- ASTM F3561 Standard Test Method for Forced-Entry-Resistance of Systems after Simulated Active Shooter Attack
- [Gunfire on School Grounds in the United States](#), Everytown Research & Policy
- [Police Response Time to Active Shooter Attacks](#), FBI.gov
- [Primer to Design Safe School Projects in Case of Terrorist Attacks and School Shootings](#), FEMA

The National Glass Association (NGA) represents America’s building glass manufacturers, suppliers, fabricators, and installers. NGA’s 1,900 member companies employ 71,000 Americans who produce and install glass for homes and commercial buildings and who generate more than \$10.3 billion in annual revenue. NGA promotes and defends the use of glass in the built environment. Our advocacy and technical initiatives respond to the relentless, ever-changing challenges to our industry.

