



How State Officials and Policymakers Can Leverage PASS to Bolster School Safety Initiatives

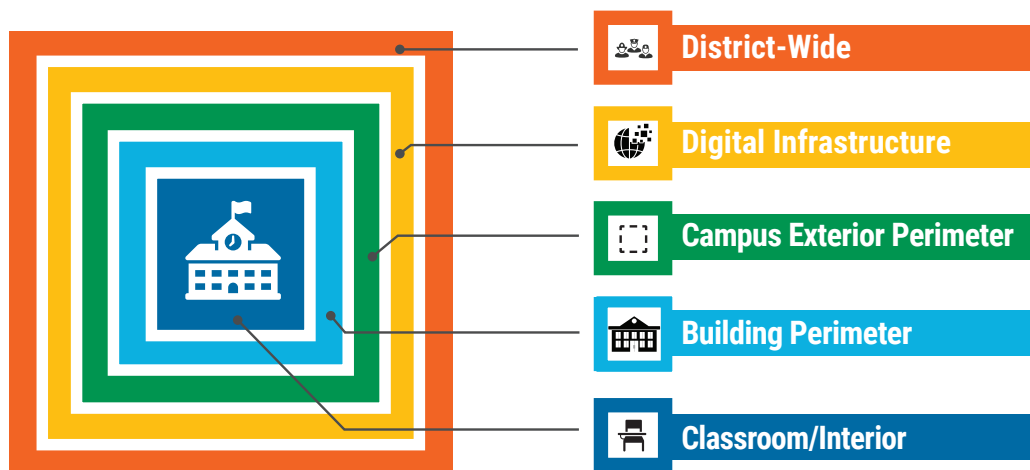
About PASS

The Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that brings together expertise across the education, public safety and industry communities, in order to provide objective, product-agnostic guidance on implementing a layered approach to enhancing the safety of school environments, that is tiered based on risk and available resources.

The Guidelines

The **PASS Safety and Security Guidelines for K-12 Schools**,¹ first published in 2015, has become the nation's most recognized source of information on leading practices for securing K-12 school facilities under an all-hazards approach. It is a free resource recognized by SchoolSafety.Gov,² federal guidance,³ as well school safety commissions and programs at the state level. It provides a layered and tiered approach across key physical security components.

LAYERS OF PROTECTION



Key recommendations in the Guidelines also correspond to physical security elements of the **ASIS School Security Standard**,⁴ the first ANSI-approved comprehensive school security standard. Released in 2025, the Standard provides structured guidance for integrating physical security, behavioral threat assessment and management, and emergency operations planning into a cohesive program.

¹ <https://passk12.org/guidelines-resources/pass-school-security-guidelines/>

² <https://www.schoolsafety.gov/targeted-violence?subtopic%5B132%5D=132&page=1>

³ For example, see <https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter/content.ashx/cops-w0891-pub.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.asisonline.org/security-news/standards-guidelines/school-security-standard/>. Freely available to school safety officials upon request at https://share.hsforms.com/1BsVQbK46QJKP9_8xsCNf8wcmvdx.

Schools & Districts

With around 5,000 downloads annually and PASS educational programs provided nationwide, school officials have been able to utilize the Guidelines to:

- Support risk assessment and development of comprehensive security plans
- Develop and justify grant applications
- Establish baseline standards for securing facilities
- Avoid pitfalls by making informed decisions on security investments

State School Safety Programs

Many states are also beginning to incorporate the PASS Guidelines into school safety programs, or considering doing so, in the following ways:

1. **Raising Awareness:** Referencing the PASS guidelines on a state agency/state school safety center website, resource list, or similar communication.
2. **PASS Partnership:** Governmental organizations can align with PASS under a no-cost partnership in support of improving school safety and security and the development of related resources.
3. **Recommendation to Schools:** Including the PASS Guidelines in official guidance, framework, or recommended practice documents.
4. **Enhancing Specific Programs.** Incorporating the PASS Guidelines into a specific grant, assessment, or implementation program.
5. **Statewide Integration.** Embedding the PASS Guidelines or key provisions into the state's broader school safety ecosystem or processes across multiple programs, agencies, or districts.

Programmatic adoption of the PASS Guidelines offers the benefit of being able to reference a widely recognized, vetted framework that can be tailored to local needs, versus building prescriptive program requirements from scratch or requiring state-level approval of specific products or services.

For example, Ohio's K-12 School Safety Grant Program⁵ included within its funds Authorized Equipment List any "Tier 1" items found in the PASS Guidelines (Tiers 1&2 correspond to basic/foundational measures). Under Utah's School Safety and Support Grant Program⁶ using the PASS Guideless and Checklist is one of several approved methods to complete a school safety needs assessment required to apply for funding. At least 10 other states have referenced or recommended the PASS Guidelines through their School Safety Centers, including Wisconsin,⁷ Florida⁸ and Illinois⁹ among others.

Recommendations to State Officials and Policymakers

PASS strongly recommends that states consider incorporating the PASS Guideless and the ASIS School Safety Standard into their school safety programs in the ways outlined above. We recognize that programmatic needs will vary across states, and we stand ready to support such efforts with further recommendations or any other information that may be needed.

For more information contact us at info@passk12.org.



Download the PASS School
Safety and Security Guidelines

⁵ <https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/ofcc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Resources/Policies/ProgramServices/PS-13-Program-Guidelines.pdf>

⁶ https://schools.utah.gov/schoolsafetycenter/_sscgrantopportunities/schoolsafety-supportgrant

⁷ <https://www.wisdoj.gov/Pages/PublicSafety/oss-planning-preparedness.aspx>

⁸ <https://www.fl DOE.org/safe-schools/best-practices.shtml>

⁹ <https://ilschoolsafety.org/other-states-safety-security/>