



2025 Survey Report | School Entrance Security

Report of K-12 School Staff Across the United States

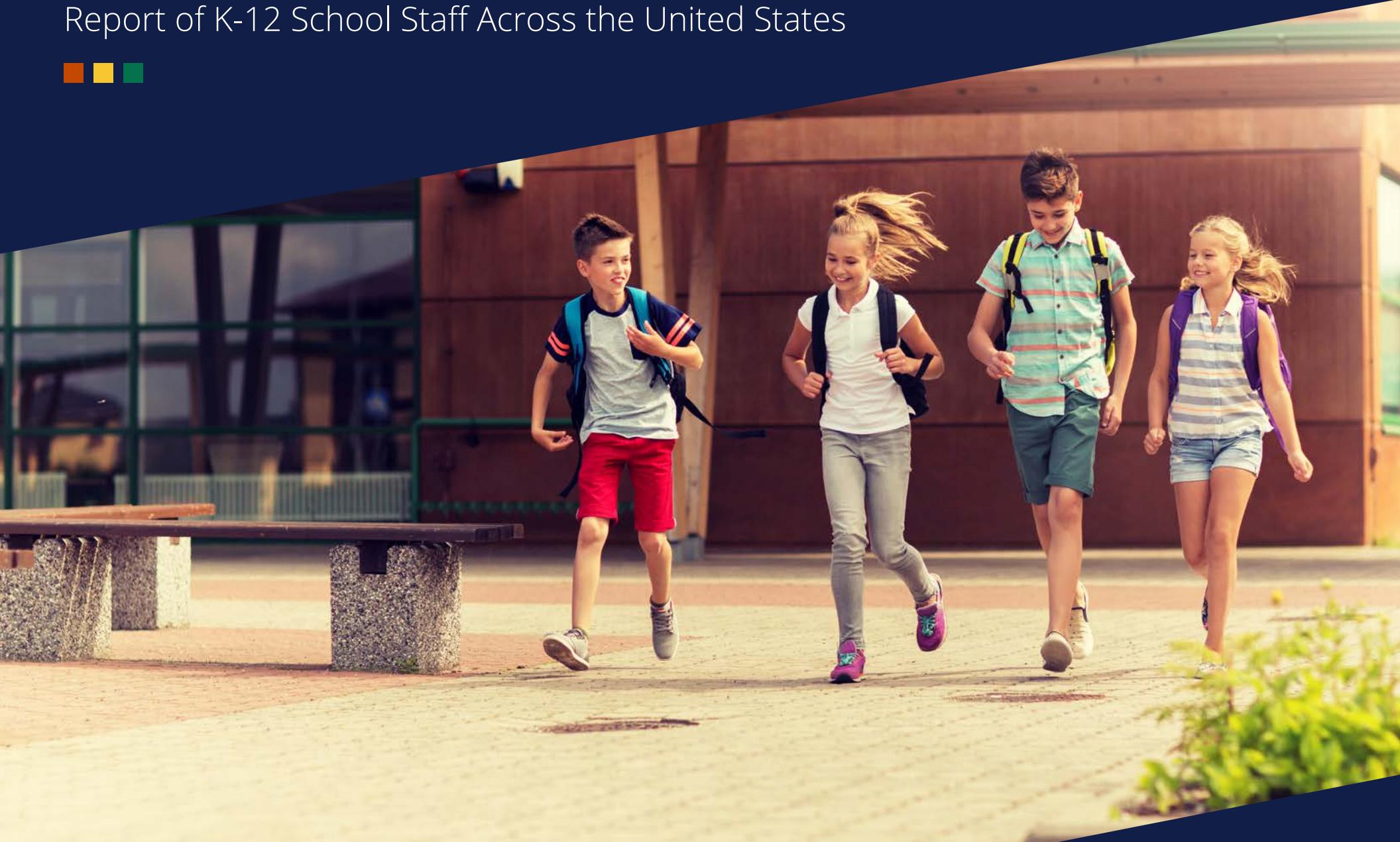


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Introduction



Introduction

Keeping Schools Safe Starts at the Front Door

School safety remains a top priority for district leaders nationwide, yet one of the most vulnerable points of entry—the front door—often lacks the security measures needed to keep out unauthorized individuals. If schools can effectively control who gains access to their buildings, they have the opportunity to significantly reduce the risk of harmful incidents.

To better understand the challenges schools face, we conducted the inaugural [School Entrance Security Survey](#) in January 2025, gathering insights from over 500 full-time school staff members across the U.S. The results reveal a concerning reality: while most schools recognize the importance of entrance security, significant gaps remain. Staffing shortages, limited resources, and confusion around entry procedures create vulnerabilities that could be exploited.

Addressing these security gaps requires solutions that enhance safety without adding extra burdens on school staff. Technology that automates visitor screening and identity verification can streamline security protocols, ensuring only authorized individuals enter while reducing risks and administrative strain.

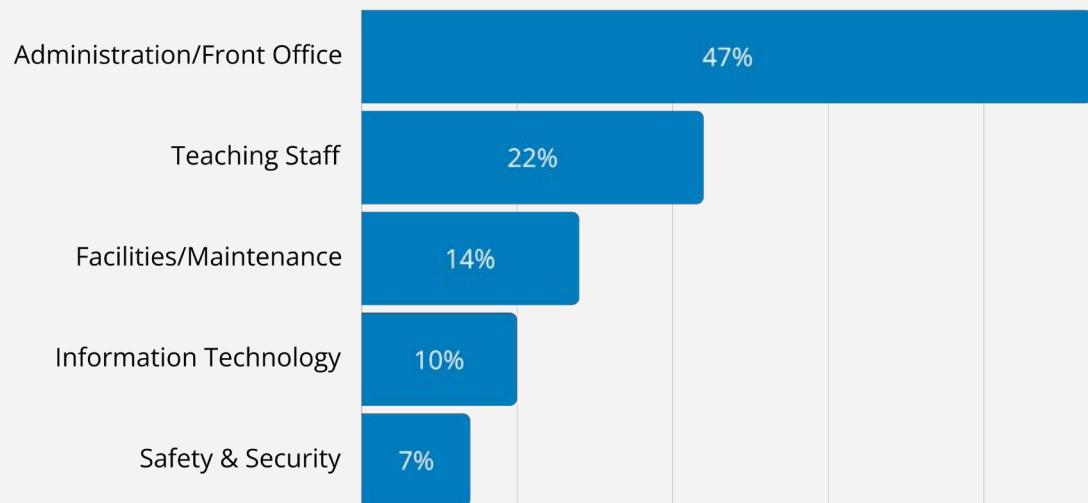


Survey Respondents

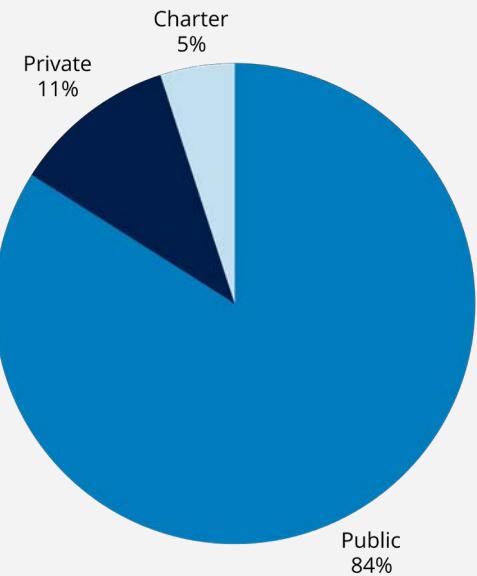


Survey Respondents

Which of the following categories best describes the role you fill or the department that you work in?

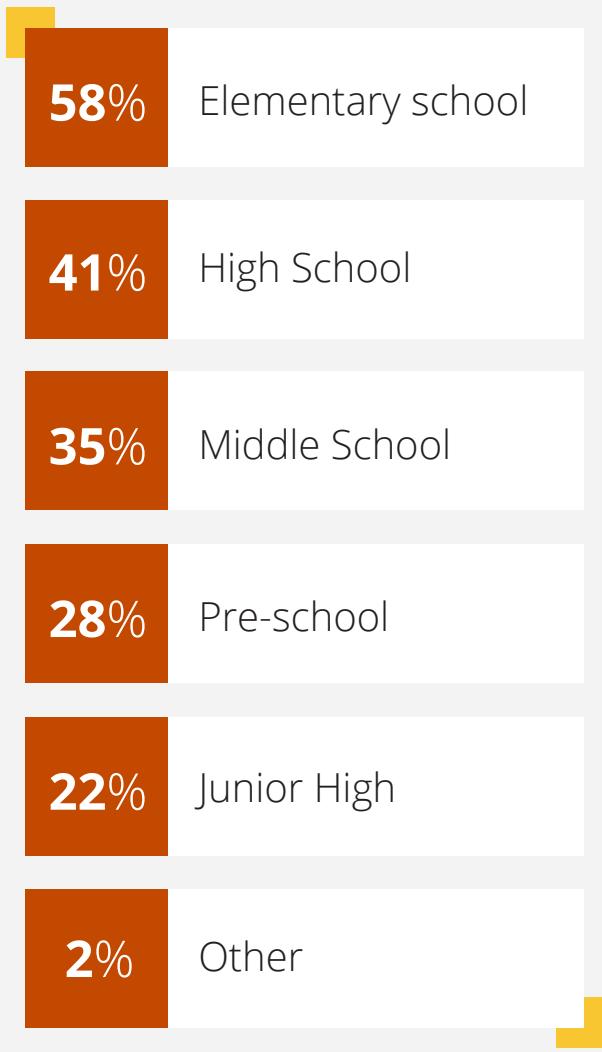


What type of school do you work at?

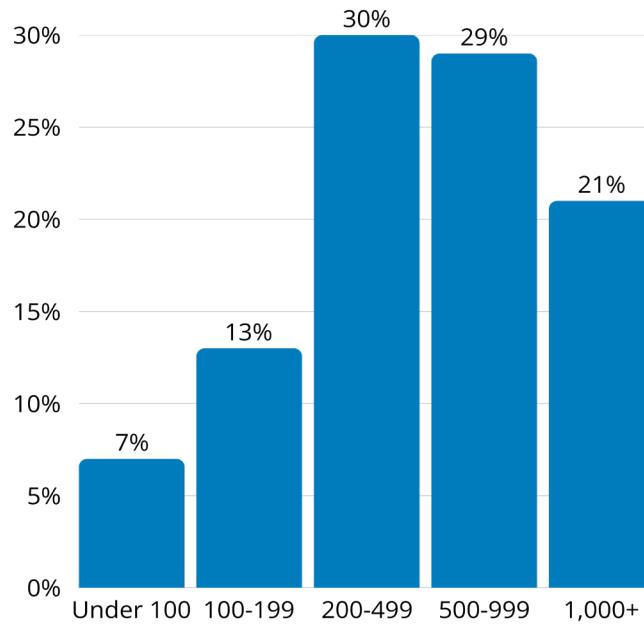


Survey Respondents

What grade levels are you involved with? (Select all that apply)



How many students are at your school?



Key Findings

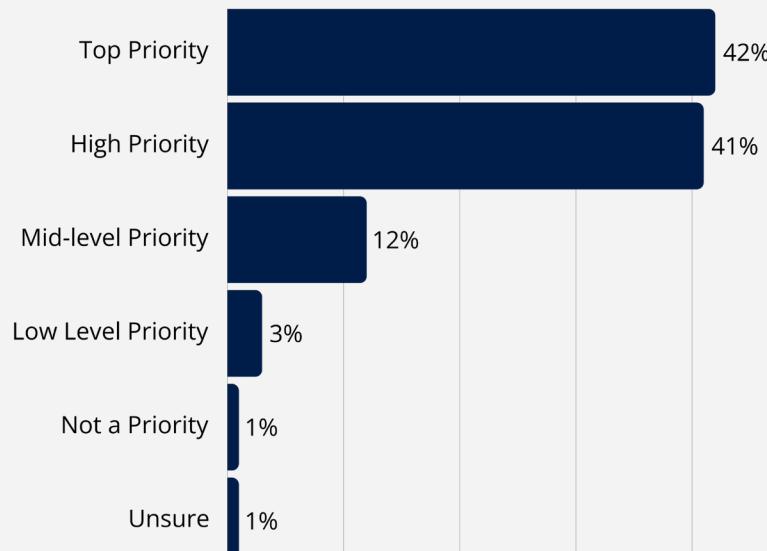
A composite image. The left side shows a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue blazer over a white shirt, opening a dark wooden door. The right side shows a group of diverse children in a school hallway. A girl in the foreground is smiling, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt, blue overalls with a floral patch on the knee, and a black backpack. A boy next to her is wearing a blue t-shirt and jeans, also with a black backpack. In the background, other children are walking, and a green chalkboard with the number '2' and some text is visible.A row of three small, horizontal decorative bars in orange, yellow, and green.

Key Findings

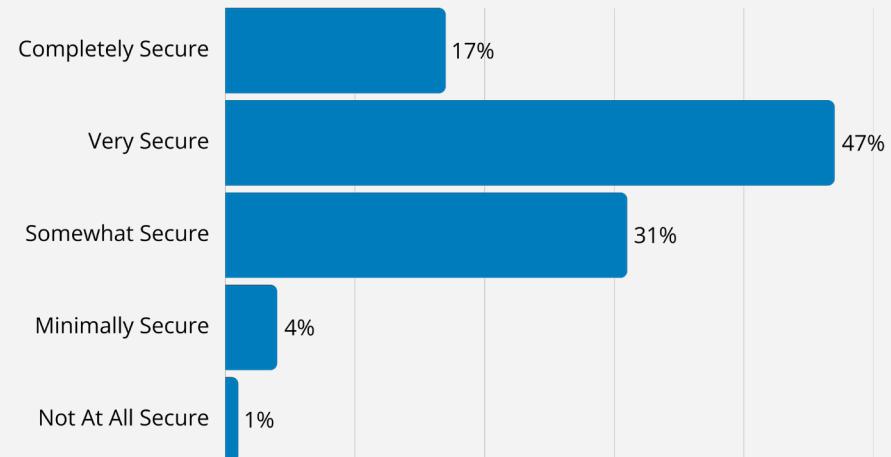
Entrance security is a priority, but schools are a long way from being completely secure

As safety continues to be a major concern for schools, school staff overwhelmingly say that securing the entrance is a priority with 83% calling it a top or high priority. However, only 17% would consider their entrances fully secure, highlighting a critical gap between identifying issues and executing solutions.

How is school entrance security currently prioritized as part of your school safety strategy?



How secure do you believe your school entrances are?



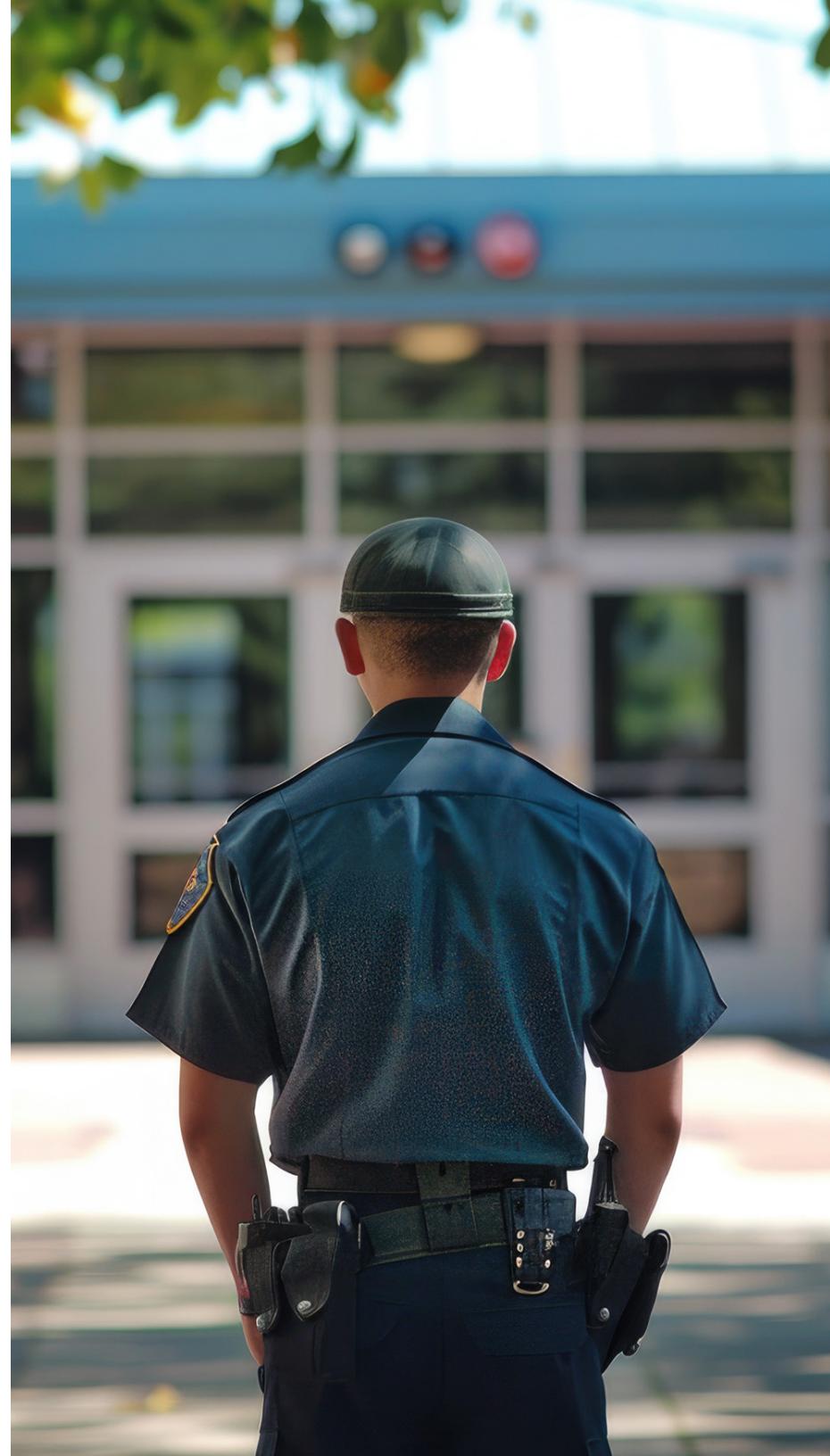
Key Findings

Check-in procedures and lack of staff are key challenges

While enhancing safety is a priority, school staff cited a multitude of issues that impacted a school's ability to keep an entrance secure. Part of the issues stem from guests who either do not follow (31%) or do not understand (26%) the proper procedures when entering a school.

Another key issue is the lack of staff to adequately monitor entrances (30%). Other concerns included not having a way to verify guests' identities before granting them access (24%), unlocked doors (23%), and being unable to restrict access to a single point of entry (22%).

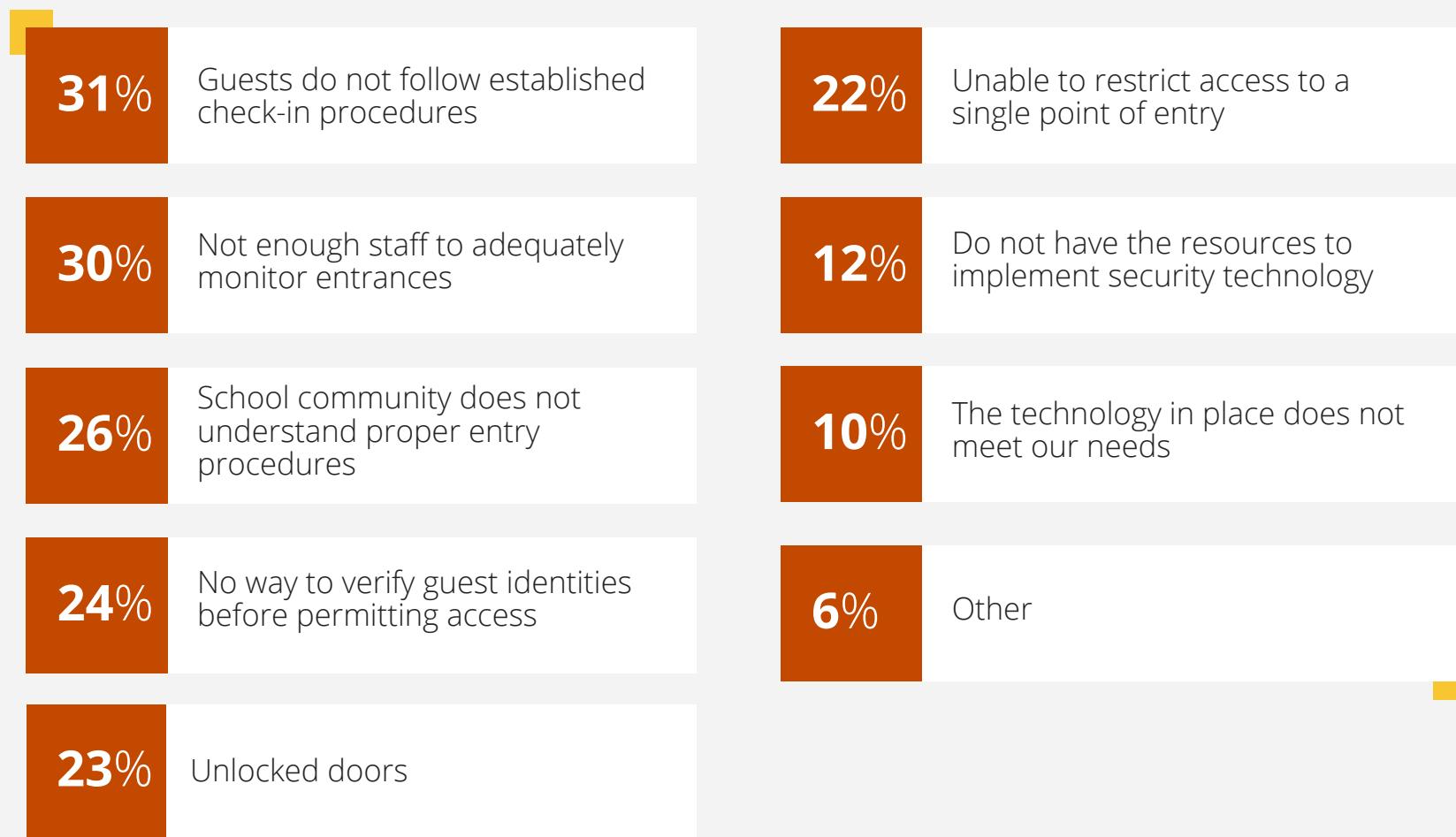
Inconsistent procedures can increase security risks and create frustration for visitors. A self-service system can help schools enforce standardized entry protocols while reducing staff burden.



Key Findings

What challenges has your school experienced with securing entrances?

(Select all that apply)



Key Findings

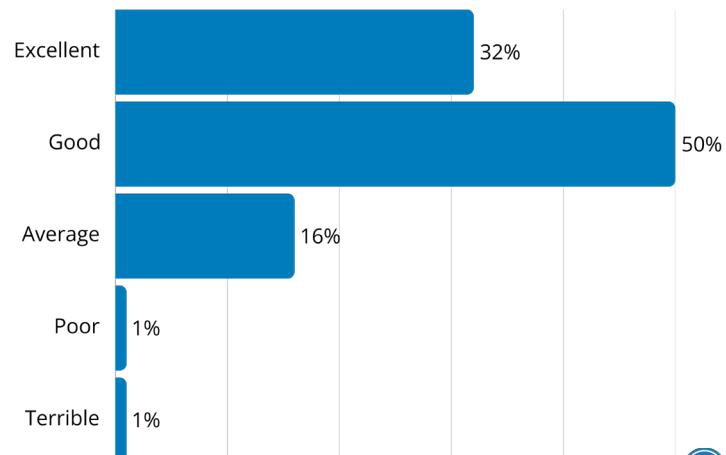
How frequently entrances are monitored is tied to how well entrance security protocols are measured

Schools where entrances are always monitored were more likely to rate current security protocols as excellent (39% vs a 32% average), and schools that only monitored entrances daily were more likely to rate current protocols as good (59% compared to 50% average).

How frequently are entrances to your school buildings monitored and supervised?

- **59% Always** - Regular supervision and monitoring of entrances 24/7
- **32% Daily** - Entrances are monitored and supervised when school is in session
- **7% Frequently** - Entrances are monitored and supervised at the beginning and end of the school day and during special events
- **2% Rarely** - Entrances are hardly ever monitored or supervised
- **0% Never** - No monitoring or supervision takes place at entrances

How would you rate the effectiveness of the current security protocols in place at your school's entrances?



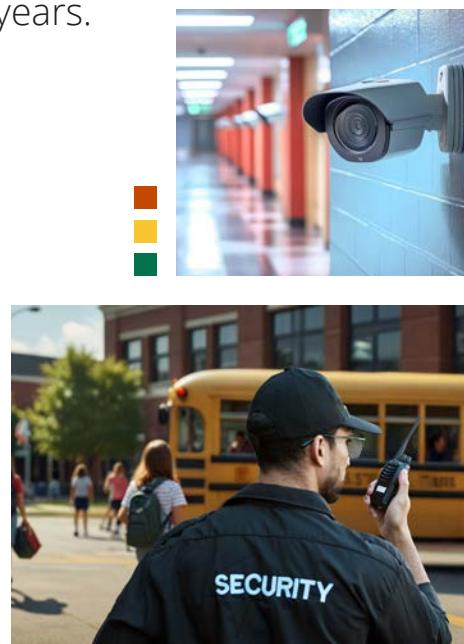
Key Findings

Less than 1/2 of U.S. schools have a way to verify visitor identities when they enter the building

Schools are using a wide range of technology to help with entrance security, but there is a major gap between solutions that monitor entrances and those that proactively verify the identity of visitors before granting them access to a school building. A majority of schools are relying on video surveillance (89%) with 43% saying that they are planning to upgrade or purchase video surveillance in the next two years. While 85% are using access control with 42% saying they plan to purchase or upgrade in the next two years.

Meanwhile, visitor management systems that can verify guest identities and help flag potential threats before they are given access are used in less than half of schools (44%) for entrance security, and only one-third (34%) are considering adding visitor management systems to their security toolkit in the next two years.

Neither video surveillance nor access control can verify someone's identity, and video surveillance is often only helpful for identifying issues as they unfold or reviewing issues after they've already happened. Schools need to understand how they can implement solutions that enable them to be more proactive in stopping threats at the door.



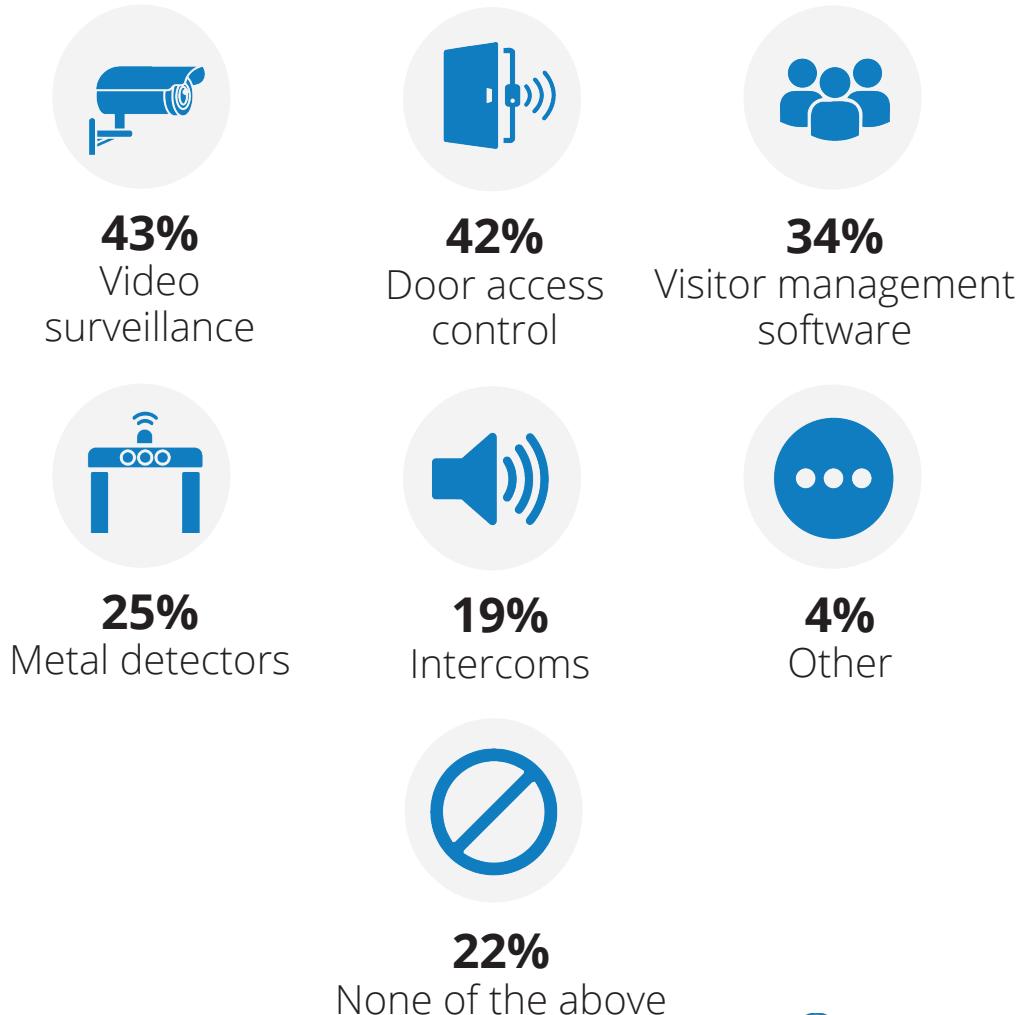
Key Findings



Which school entrance security solutions/systems do you currently have in place? (Select all that apply)



Which school entrance security solutions/systems do you currently plan on upgrading or purchasing as new in the next two years? (Select all that apply)



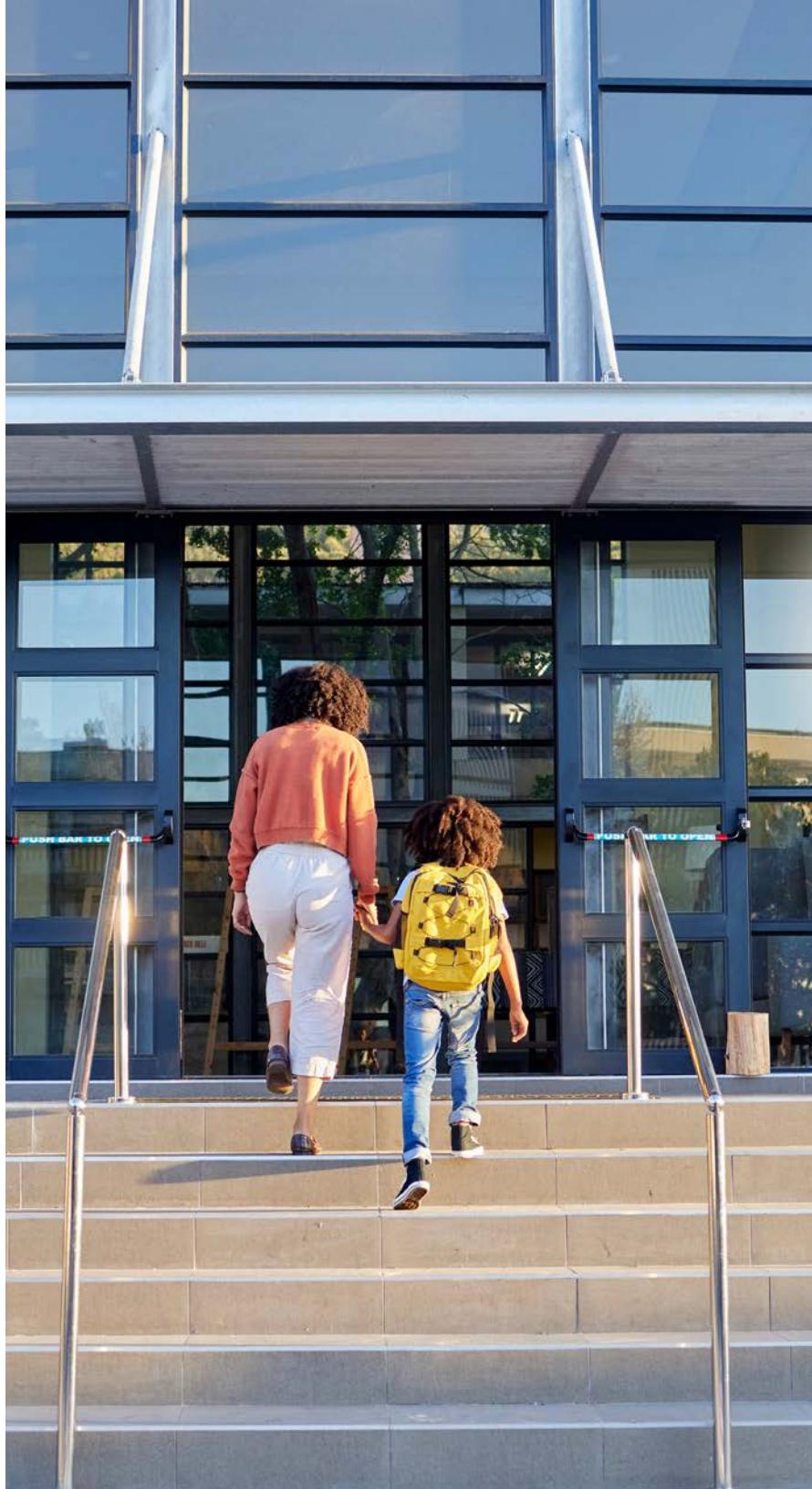
Key Findings

Visitor management systems in schools lead to excellent security protocols

While half of the survey respondents rated their current school security protocols as good (50%), there was a clear distinction between how those that had visitor management systems in place and those that did not. Schools with visitor management systems were more likely to rate security protocols as excellent (39% compared to 27% for those that did not). This emphasizes the positive impact visitor management systems can have on creating more secure school entrances.

How would you rate the effectiveness of the current security protocols in place at your school's entrances? (Comparing schools that use visitor management systems vs. those that don't)

	Used	Not Used
Excellent	39%	27%
Good	47%	52%
Average	12%	19%
Poor	1%	1%
Terrible	1%	1%



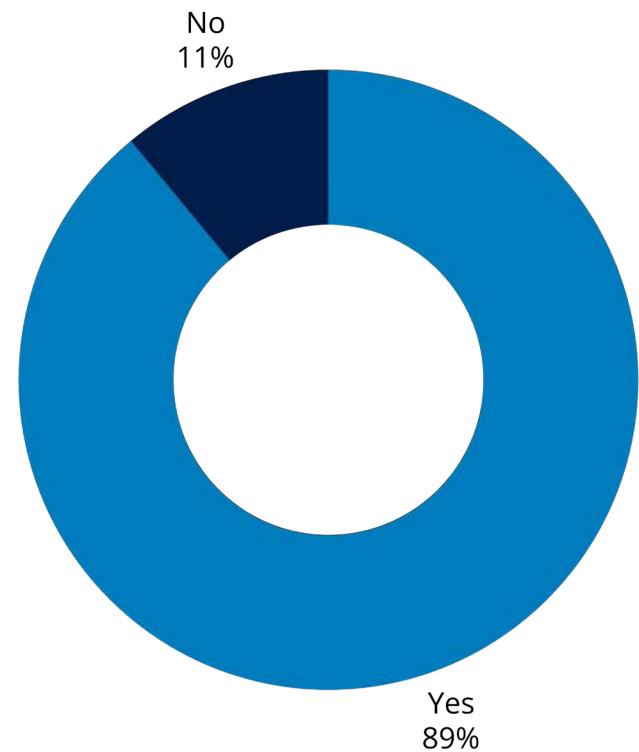
Key Findings

School staff overwhelmingly know what to do if an issue arises at the entrance

Issues at school entrances can and will happen, so it's critical that staff know how to respond to mitigate issues before they escalate. Luckily, **89% of school staff said that they know how to respond when issues arise**, and schools have a wide range of tools at their disposal to help share information to respond. PA and intercom systems (54%), radios and walkie-talkies (54%) and mass notification (44%) are all widely used, while word of mouth is rarely used (25%) and only 1% responded that their school doesn't have an established communication system. This demonstrates that while schools are still working to improve the ways they can prevent incidents from occurring, that when issues do occur, schools are well-equipped to respond.



If an entrance-security issue does arise, do you personally know how to respond?



Key Findings

If there is a security issue, how do you communicate it with others? (Select all that apply)



Conclusion and Methodology



Conclusion and Methodology

Conclusion

The findings from this survey make one thing clear: while schools recognize the importance of entrance security, significant gaps remain in their ability to enforce and maintain strong protocols. There are key challenges that need to be overcome, including guest compliance issues, staffing shortages, and a lack of identity verification tools. Schools overwhelmingly rely on video surveillance, yet this technology is primarily reactive—helpful for monitoring and reviewing incidents rather than preventing them.

To close these security gaps, schools need proactive solutions that strengthen entrance control. The data highlights the effectiveness of visitor management systems, with schools using them more likely to rate their security as excellent. However, adoption remains low, with less than half of schools currently using these systems. By implementing visitor management technology, schools can better verify identities, enforce consistent procedures, and reduce the burden on staff—ultimately creating a safer learning environment for students and educators.

Methodology

The independent research firm Researchscape conducted this survey. Respondents were 511 staff members at K-12 schools in the United States. To qualify for the survey, staff members had to work as administrators or front office staff, teachers, part of facilities/maintenance teams, IT teams or as safety and security staff. Responses were gathered in January and February 2025.



About Visitor Aware



About Visitor Aware from Singlewire Software

Singlewire Software is the leader in solutions that help keep people safe and informed and has been a champion of school safety initiatives for more than 15 years. Visitor Aware is our visitor management system that help schools enhance entrance security by:

- Eliminating unreliable pen and paper sign-in sheets
- Creating a standardized check-in process all guests must follow
- Having guests select the destination they are visiting within a school
- Requiring guests to have their picture taken and present a photo ID
- Using facial recognition to validate identities and minimize false positives
- Screening information against sex offender databases and national watchlists
- Discreetly alerting school staff when potential issues are flagged
- Not requiring any proprietary hardware, so schools can create the most effective setup
- Wirelessly printing badges that show guests have completed the check-in process
- Creating a digital log so school officials can see who is in the building



About Visitor Aware (cont.)

In addition to visitor management, Visitor Aware offers four additional tools to help with school safety, including solutions for buses, dismissal, hall pass, safety drills, and reunification. Visitor Aware also integrates directly with our InformaCast mass notification and incident management system to help schools further enhance safety and communication at their entrances and throughout their buildings

VISITOR MANAGER

- Screen visitors and volunteers before granting them access
- Maintain digital records of visitors and volunteers
- Print badges to identify guests

HALL MANAGER

- Digitally permit students to be excused from class
- Create restrictions around granting student passes
- Maintain digital student hallway activity log

DISMISSAL MANAGER

- Monitor and track student dismissal types
- Streamline the carpool line pickup process
- License Plate Recognition integration

BUS MANAGER

- Verify students get on the correct bus
- Share student bus location insights with guardians
- Know when students have gotten off the bus

SAFETY MANAGER

- Schedule and assign drills across your district
- Submit tips about potential school threats
- Easily reunite students with guardians following an incident

INTEGRATE INFORMACAST

- Add mass notification and incident management
- Auto-enroll guests to receive notifications
- Initiate alerts when flagged visitors attempt entry

Visit www.singlewire.com/demo to see how Visitor Aware can help your school create a more secure entrance.