

Case Study: Ohio School District Selects Velo Privacy Screen to Upgrade Door Security After School Shooting Incident

Following a 2017 shooting at the **West Liberty-Salem Local School** in Ohio, the school district implemented a range of strategies to improve building security, from new entrance policies to upgraded hardware and innovative door features. One of the priorities for upgrading door security included a better way to block the line of sight into classrooms through door vision frames from the corridor. The school district's previous emergency plan was to tape paper onto the windows in doors to block vision, but they were looking for a solution that was easier and provided better coverage.

They found that the pull-down privacy screen from Activar Construction Products Group met all of those needs. The screens which block all light and vision, have been added to classroom doors and incorporated into the new lockdown procedures.



School Superintendent Kraig Hissong provided feedback on the implementation. *"Overall, it's definitely improved the ability to secure the classroom and stay out of the line of sight of an active shooter or someone who might be intruding in the building".*

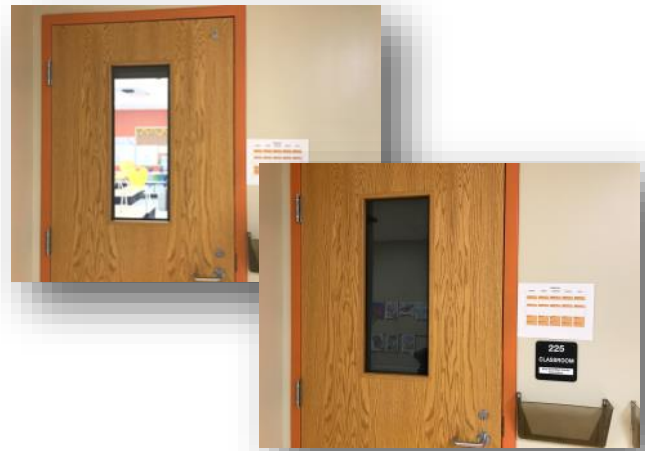


Velo Privacy Screen Pulls Down with One Hand

"For our school district, or I think any school district, you have to do what you can do practically, to eliminate as many possibilities where you may not be as secure as you could be. For us, making sure that the doors were secure and making sure that we took care of the line of sight issue was very important, and became a priority.

When it comes to safety, it's something that you just can't put on the back burner and wait for later. It's something you need to do."

—Kraig Hissong, West Liberty-Salem Superintendent



Blocks all Light and Vision Through Door When Closed

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PROJECT CHALLENGES

Block Line of Sight from Corridor to Rooms

Due to the school district's experience during the school shooting incident in 2017, this was an especially important requirement.

Quick and Easy to Use During a Lockdown

The solution needed to be easier and quicker to use than taping paper over the vision lites in doors. They needed something that the teachers could use to quickly block the window when locking the door.

Practical and Easy to Install

Completely new solid doors without vision lites was not a practical solution to improving security. Instead, several other enhancements were made to the doors including privacy screens, door barriers, bullet resistant glass film, and thumb turn locks with "locked" indicators.

Can it Serve a Dual Purpose?

Could the solution block light for audio/visual presentations or provide privacy during conferences.

Finding a Cost-Effective Solution & Funding

Once the district discussed their priorities for improving door and security within the building, they looked for funding for those projects. They considered general funding, grants and other opportunities.

SOLUTIONS

The privacy screen completely blocks all light and vision. Durable 100% opaque, light-blocking fabric material is attached to a rigid pull-down bar mounted into the side channels. The screen is overlapped by the side channels by 1/2" on three sides.

The privacy screen pulls down with one hand and locks into the closed position in the bottom track. Release to open is with a single rocker button.

Installation takes minutes with the peel and stick 3M Dual Lock® fasteners provided. The screen can be applied to existing vision frames. The strong mechanical fastening of the Dual Lock resists tampering, yet can still be removed if necessary by school staff. UL listed for use on fire-rated doors.

"Teachers so far, are impressed with how easy they are to use, and they like the fact that they can put them up or down... any time throughout the day." says Hissong.

Ultimately, the district used general fund dollars to purchase 116 privacy screens, and finalized all of their upgrades within 18 months. Compared to other options, the privacy screen was more cost-effective and provided the best vision blocking into rooms.

Air Louvers, a manufacturer of products used on doors including vision frames, louvers and light-blocking privacy products, is a brand of the Activar Construction Products Group.

The privacy screen for doors was developed to improve door security in a range of facilities including schools. The privacy screen is available for both doors and for sidelites and installs with peel and stick fasteners to existing frames. All components are designed for durability, long life and tamper-resistance.

For more information on the privacy screen and to view the video of an interview with Kraig Hissong, visit our website www.activarcp.com/privacy-screen

You may also contact our education specialist by calling 952-838-1912 or email us at info@activarcp.com

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Velo for Doors



Velo for Sidelites