

## Is your Child SAFE? What You Don't Know About School Security

### *The Danger That Is Closer to Home*

Let's *cut through the nonsense* right now. You've been fed assurances that your child's school is a fortress, guarded from all imaginable dangers. They sell you on buzzwords like 'state-of-the-art security systems' and 'trained personnel,' and you buy it because, desperately, you want to believe your kids are safe. However, that *could not be further from the truth!*

*Here's another ugly truth* you may not be aware of: School security is a political football, tossed back and forth for a mere two weeks after every shooting before it's dropped and forgotten. Both sides of the aisle love to point fingers and shout across the room, but who's actually picking up the torch to make real change? *That's right, no one.*

That ends today. *Pick up that torch for your children* and never drop it. Call out your schools, mayors, city councils, and state leaders. Demand they quit grandstanding and finger-pointing. *It's time for action*, not soundbites.

While many obsess over external threats like online predators, *the real danger is lurking* where you least expect it—*in the schools you trust*. Open doors, unguarded windows, a half-backed approach to ID verification—these are the ticking time bombs *wrapped in a veneer of safety*.

*We are going no-holds-barred* in this article, and some readers may find it incendiary. Don't expect us to dance around the facts or sugarcoat the glaring issues. Why? *Because your child's safety is non-negotiable*, and the responsibility for that safety rests squarely on the parents. And let's be crystal clear: *those systems are FAILING*, whether you want to admit it or not, and *children are being murdered* while under the disguise of theatrical security protocols.

If you find the premise to be disturbing, then I strongly suggest you *channel that feeling into ACTION!* We're going to expose the treacherous gaps in school security, and we'll demand nothing less than a full-on revolution on how we think about school security to fix them.

So, if you're ready to be uncomfortable for the sake of making sure our schools aren't the weak link in our children's safety, keep reading. If you'd rather stay wrapped in a cozy blanket of an undeniably false view of school security, close this tab. But remember, *ignorance is a choice—a choice that risks YOUR children's lives.*

## *Complacency: A Risk We Can't Afford*

Let's be blunt: **COMPLACENCY KILLS**. Do you think your child's school is a fortress? Think again. Sure, there's a security protocol "in place," but it's about as effective as a paper shield. Doors aren't just open; they're invitingly **PROPPED OPEN**. Windows aren't just unlocked; they're practically an open invitation to threats. And the personnel checking IDs at the entrance? They're too lax to stop anyone truly determined.

***Our children's safety is in jeopardy***, and the threat doesn't always come from the expected sources. **The true danger lies in our complacency**—a risk we can no longer tolerate. In Colorado, a state renowned for pioneering the playbook on active shooter response, complacency still manages to rear its ugly head. This complacency isn't born of mere forgetfulness or negligence; it's a pervasive, dangerous mindset of comfort that places our children's lives in jeopardy.



Propped door at a school in Boulder Area, Co Photo from an Executive Client child's school

Consider a recent incident at one of our executive clients' schools in the Boulder area. ***A chilling photograph landed in my inbox***, depicting a propped open school door with **no one** inside the room, unmonitored and unprotected. This unsettling image serves as a stark reminder that even in a state celebrated for its proactive stance on countering threats, complacency can creep into our school hallways. ***In many recent active shooter situations, the threat entered through a propped-open, unguarded door!***

This isn't just a school problem; it's a societal epidemic. We've become so comfortable in our routines that we overlook glaring vulnerabilities because of comfort, **and that's exactly what potential threats count on.**

Here's what you can do to fix this problem: As parents, educators, and community members, ***you have the power to pressure schools into action.*** Don't just assume everything's fine because you haven't heard the latest headlines. Demand ***regular safety audits.*** Call for consistent ***training for staff.*** Call for ***real armed security*** that will not only deter violent intruders but gives the students and staff piece of mind, ***knowing they are truly safe.*** Hold your school boards accountable for every unlocked door and every unverified visitor. These holes add gaps to the armor of our schools.

One glaring example of this complacency is the tendency to disregard security protocols, such as granting access to someone through a secured door simply because we're acquainted with them. It may seem like a harmless act driven by familiarity and trust, but it carries potentially dire consequences.

No more excuses. Every day we're not acting is another day we're *rolling the dice with our children's lives*. We must acknowledge that complacency regarding school security isn't just an inconvenience; it's a perilous *disregard for our children's well-being*. Those school doors remain locked for a crucial reason—to *shield the precious lives within from potential harm*. When we prioritize our comfort over their safety, we inadvertently invite threats to infiltrate our sanctuaries.

Complacency is not an option. It's high time we awaken to the reality that *our children's safety rests in our hands*. So, what's it going to be? Will you be the catalyst for change, or *will you keep fooling yourself* into believing, "*IT WON'T HAPPEN AT OUR SCHOOL.*" *The HUNDREDS of parents who have lost their children thought that too*

## ***Access Control—Your School's Weakest Link***

Access control is more than *your school's weakest link*; it's the lifeline that stands between our children's safety and any THREAT. Schools can't afford to treat it like an afterthought any longer. Your school's front door is not just a door; it's a gateway that either safeguards or *endangers the lives* within the building.

You might be tempted to consider your school's ID checks and visitor badges as evidence of effective security. Pause for a moment. *Schools often fall short* in enforcing stringent access control protocols, leaving entrances unmonitored, staff neglecting locking procedures, and visitor identities unverified. Believing this is an exaggeration is *actively contributing to the problem*.

Let's talk about familiarity. Ever let Mr. Jones in, a parent you know because your kids are in the same class, without going through the security protocols? **BAD MOVE.** What if he's currently involved in a domestic dispute, you're not aware of? This kind of complacency is playing Russian roulette with our children's lives. *Never bypass access control measures*, no matter how well you think you know someone.

## **Actionable Steps: Enough Talk, Let's Get Things Done**

It's time for a wake-up call. Access control isn't a checkbox; it's an uncompromising standard. The first step is demanding your facility adopt an *access control protocol*. Determine which entrances will be in use, keep unused ones locked, and establish a rigorous visitor verification system. Even the most basic protocols can significantly enhance security when consistently implemented. ***BUT THESE ONLY WORK WHEN FOLLOWED EACH AND EVERY TIME!***

What about those glass facades or entry points? *They might as well be open doors*. A proven strategy is to use ballistic glazing. It fortifies these vulnerable points, making it more challenging for threats to gain entry and buying valuable time for law enforcement.

## The Bottom Line

Access control is non-negotiable and is the *first line of defense* in ensuring the safety of our children. For a deeper dive into this topic, consult our [article on Access Control in Schools](#).

Reading won't protect our kids—taking action will. So, are you ready to fortify that first line of defense, or are you willing to live with the consequences?

## Rapid Response: A Race Against Time

When it comes to active shooter scenarios in schools, every second counts. You've probably heard that a million times, but let's add a crucial context to it—a real-life event that turned out to be a devastating lesson for all of us. The Central Visual and Performing Arts High School in St. Louis is a case in point.



Kids gathered and walking in a High School Hallway believing they are safe from threats.

Now, let's bring some data into this: According to [AmberBox Gunshot Detection](#), the average length of an active shooter incident is 12.5 minutes. Five minutes is the average time taken to call the police following a gunshot. That's 17.5 minutes on average for your kid to *try evading an active shooter*. **TIME WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE!**

The St. Louis school shooting was a grim demonstration of the limitations of rapid response alone. The police response was hailed as near perfect, arriving just four minutes after the initial 911 call at 9:11 AM. **But who knows how long it took people to actually call, though!** While they managed to confront the shooter by 9:23 AM, the damage was already done. Two lives were tragically lost, and several more were injured. Despite the police's commendable efficiency, the school's security measures failed the ultimate test: saving lives. We've dissected this tragic case in our article, [The St. Louis School Shooting Need Not Have Happened](#).

## The Grim Reality: Police Can't Prevent—Only Respond

The cold, hard truth is that rapid response *is not a proactive measure—it's reactive*. And when lives are at stake, reactive measures are simply insufficient. The national average response time for police to arrive, after a 911 call has been made, at an active school shooting is around 3 minutes, according to FBI statistics. That translates to *8 minutes* for a shooter to have free rein. The St. Louis incident? **11 LONG MINUTES** from the first call to police confronting the shooter. **11 MINUTES OF UNMITIGATED HORROR!**

## **The Illusion of Security: Don't Be Fooled**

The school thought they were prepared. They had a plan, locked doors, sealed access points, and even had a team of seven *unarmed* security guards. It amounted to nothing more than “*security theater*,” creating an illusion of safety without the effectiveness to back it up. Security measures need to be practical, functional, and robust. Anything less is a gamble with student's lives. *Security theater has no place in protecting our schools.*

## **Armed Security: The Missing Link**

There are two main avenues schools consider for *effective* on-site armed security: School Resource Officers (SROs) and professional private armed security. While SROs have their merits, they've been increasingly criticized for contributing to the so-called “school-to-prison pipeline,” alienating them from the students they're supposed to protect.

On the other hand, private armed security focuses solely on protection—shielding lives and upholding security protocols. They do not have the baggage of law enforcement scrutiny that comes with SROs. At *HCCI Protection*, our armed security professionals are trained rigorously to deal with active threats and ensure the sanctity of the educational environment. They're in schools to protect, not police.

## **It's Time for a Proactive Approach**

Don't settle for mere rapid response. Go for *proactive security*. At *HCCI Protection*, we prioritize preventive measures that go beyond the limitations of rapid response. We train our professionals to the highest standards, focusing on real, tangible security over theatrical gestures. Our aim is to integrate seamlessly into the communities we serve, gaining the trust of students, teachers, and parents alike.

## **The Final Word**

When it comes to securing our schools, the goal is not just rapid response but *PROACTIVE PREVENTION*. If you're serious about protecting the young lives in your care, armed security isn't a luxury; it's a necessity. The grim lessons from past events are clear: Response time, while crucial, is not enough. **Effective security means being prepared before the first shot is fired.**

## **Mitigating the Risk: Proactive Measures**

“*Why wait minutes when seconds count?*”—this should be the driving question behind our security strategies, especially in schools. *Traditional emergency response models are not just outdated; they're dangerous.* By the time law enforcement arrives, the tragedy has already unfolded, **and the tragedy may have already reached its conclusion.** \

## **A Case for Private Security**

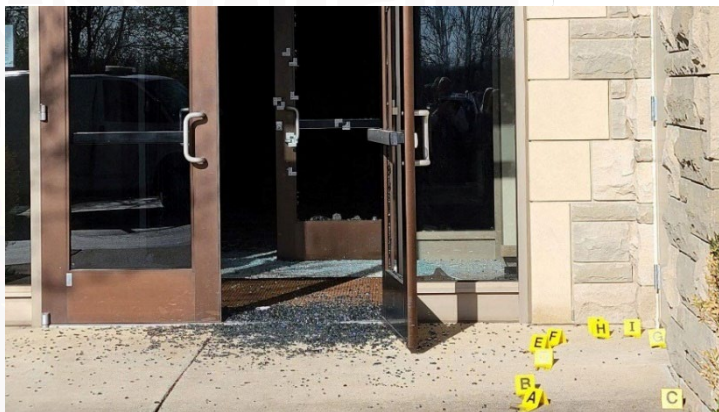
Given the current state of law enforcement—often understaffed and stretched thin—it's becoming more apparent that specialized private security services are not just an alternative but a necessity. In Denver, the [shortage of law enforcement officers is such that 911 response times have suffered](#). According to Denver Police Chief Paul Pazen, the department is down 170 officers, leading to an 18% increase in high-priority response times.

This lack of resources becomes even more troubling when we consider the shortage of School Resource Officers (SROs) to staff schools adequately. In fact, the Denver Police Department is [struggling to fill open roles](#) and faces a 10.6% vacancy rate among uniformed officers. Even with an \$8.4 million budget proposal for 2023 aimed at recruiting 188 new officers, the interim police chief has expressed doubt that such a number will be achieved within the year.

Even more alarming, a recent [audit report](#) revealed that the Denver Police Department lacks strategic planning for staffing retention and community policing. The report noted that DPD faces challenges like low morale and a higher resignation rate among women, further depleting the force. These systemic issues make it difficult for the police to commit to proactive community policing efforts, let alone adequately staff schools with SROs.

The situation is clear: We cannot solely rely on traditional law enforcement to ensure the safety of our schools. It's time to think outside the box and explore more effective, dedicated solutions, like those provided by HCCI Protection.

***Unlike traditional law enforcement, private security offers a full-time presence at their Client, including schools, thus providing an immediate response to threats. According to our [in-depth article on the collaboration between private security and law enforcement](#), the utilization of private security services can not only augment law enforcement but also reduce the overall burden they face, especially in crime-heavy urban areas. **This synergy can be a powerful deterrent against criminal activities** and effectively harden otherwise vulnerable targets, such as schools.***



The scene of an active shooter that shot through the unprotected glass of the entry door to get in the "secured" building.

## Medical Preparedness

Another underemphasized area is medical preparedness. ***Victims of active shooters often succumb to preventable causes, primarily loss of blood.*** Schools need to be equipped with both trained personnel and essential medical supplies to tackle such exigencies. ***This requirement isn't just a best practice—it's a life-saving imperative. EMTs cannot enter an active shooter situation until it is fully secured. Therefore, your on-site medical equipment may be the only possibility for extending the lives of victims until professionals can enter the building.***

## Proactive Detection and Community Dynamics

Being proactive also involves identifying potential threats from within the community before they become active. Given the rising cases of internal threats, as evidenced by incidents like the [Denver East High Schools situation](#), it is vital that security personnel be well-versed in the community dynamics and be trained to spot early warning signs. ***The key lies in having well-***

*trained security professionals who can understand, build trust, and effectively integrate within the school community.*

## **The Call for Collaboration**

The bottom line is that *no single entity can effectively secure our schools or communities*. It requires a concerted effort between law enforcement and private security companies.

Unfortunately, political issues have often stood in the way of such collaborations. *At HCCI Protection, we aim to set an industry standard that not only works in concert with law enforcement but also engenders trust within the communities we serve.*

For a deeper dive into the complexities of spotting potential threats within a school community, we invite you to read our specialized article, [\*How To Detect Possible Mass Shooters.\*](#)

## ***The Role of Security Professionals: A Critical Solution***

When law enforcement agencies are stretched thin, *the onus falls on private security to fill the gaps*. Trained security professionals are a non-negotiable element in today's unpredictable landscape. These men and women serve on-site, around the clock, *eliminating the long, risky wait for external help* and implementing robust access control to keep unauthorized individuals at bay. As our article "[\*The Deadly Consequences of Security Theater\*](#)" elaborates, *the cost of not having well-prepared security can be measured in human lives.*



Our team throwing a football with K-5, nurturing trust, and open communication as key components of a safe environment.

### **Security Theater: A Dangerous Illusion**

But all security is not created equal. *The perilous phenomenon of "security theater" underlines the cost of opting for appearance over substance*. As revealed in countless tragic reports, inadequately prepared security personnel have lost their lives in active shooter scenarios. *These losses are not just sad footnotes; they're alarming indicators of a broken system. The stakes are too high for such theatrics.*

## **The True Cost of Inadequate Security: St. Louis School Shooting**

Recent real-world tragedies underscore this point. Take the St. Louis school shooting in October 2022, where an unarmed security guard identified the threat before it ever entered the school but was powerless to act, *costing two innocent lives*. *These incidents illustrate the urgent need to move away from superficial, cost-effective solutions toward deploying armed, expertly-trained security personnel who are equipped to neutralize threats effectively.*

## **Our Moral and Professional Imperative**

As leaders in the security industry, *we don't just have an economic stake in this; we have a moral imperative*. We must equip our security teams with the training, resources, and arms they need to protect not just themselves but *the communities and institutions they serve*.

## Time for a Paradigm Shift

The urgency cannot be overstated; the time for change is now. *The recent spate of tragic events amplifies the urgent call to action.* Parents, school officials, and community leaders must rise above mediocre solutions and *advocate for the presence of competent, armed security professionals.*

## The Bottom Line: A Commitment to Real Security

The eradication of security theater and the investment in capable, well-armed security professionals should be our collective aim. The debate is no longer about whether armed security is necessary—it's about how quickly we can make this paradigm shift. *We're committed to protecting our clients* and contributing to the broader safety of our communities. Our endgame is twofold: to *eradicate the lethal illusion* of security theater and to *ensure our children can return home* at the end of their school day!

## A Wake-Up Call That Can't Be Ignored

*Let's get straight to the brutal truth:* the safety protocols in many of our schools are a facade—a deadly game of Russian Roulette with the lives of our children. The lackadaisical approach to their safety is *not just irresponsible; it's criminal.* Security theater has no place in our schools, especially when it turns corridors and classrooms into killing fields.

You might not like the harshness of my words, but *can you afford to ignore them?* This isn't a matter of polite discussion over coffee or a topic to scroll past on social media. *Your children's lives are on the line, and we're failing them.* This isn't just on the security companies or the schools—it's on us, parents, and school officials to demand better.

*Don't wait for another headline* of a school shooting or a tragic loss to propel you into action. This isn't just someone else's problem; it's *your child's funeral* you're gambling with. Prioritize your children's lives above everything else—above the budget, above convenience, above bureaucratic red tape.

The road ahead is fraught with challenges, but frankly, *your hesitation is a luxury we can no longer afford.* Shake off the complacency. *Take immediate action.* Consult experts, educate yourself, and, for heaven's sake, invest in **reliable, armed security professionals who are trained to neutralize threats**, not just observe them.

For further guidance and action steps, *contact HCCI Professional Protective Services.* We don't deal with illusions of safety; we provide *real, tangible security solutions.* The question isn't if something will happen at your child's school, it's *when.* And when it does, *will you regret not taking action today?*

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

WHEN SECONDS COUNT  
WHY WAIT MINUTES?

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.HCCISEcurity.COM](http://WWW.HCCISEcurity.COM) TODAY



### **About HCCI Protection's Commitment to School Safety**

Located in Denver, Colorado, HCCI Professional Protective Services LLC (HCCI Protection) is at the forefront of delivering specialized school security services. Recognizing the growing safety concerns within educational institutions, HCCI Protection's approach goes beyond mere vigilance. With a team trained in both lethal and non-lethal weapons, we provide comprehensive, tailor-made security plans aimed at safeguarding our schools. Our focus is not just on reactive measures but on proactive strategies that consider the unique culture, dynamics, and challenges of each educational environment we protect. As experts in safety and security, we strive to create a safe, secure, and welcoming educational environment, giving both parents and school administrators peace of mind.

**Reach out to us at 720-476-0312 or [info@hcciprotection.com](mailto:info@hcciprotection.com) for a committed partner in your school's security needs, or visit our [website](#) to learn more.**

### **Testimonials**

As an education leader with more than 15 years' experience who is certified in school security, I have never had a better security arrangement than I did with HCCI. They show up every day, are professional and provided excellent customer service. I recommend without any reservation HCCI Professional Protective Services.

Don Griffin, Ph.D  
Former Principal - Ascent Classical Academy

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Throughout the year, they converted conflict scenarios into positive outcomes through effective de-escalation, problem solving, and quick-thinking responses. Another strength of HCCI Professional Protective Services was their commitment to making the school a joyful and comfortable space. More importantly, the entire team took the time to forge meaningful relationships with teachers, students, and families alike. The students knew each team member and loved getting to see them throughout the day.

Rachael Luesse  
Former Art Teacher - Ascent Classical Academy

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HCCI Protection has proven to be an invaluable partner in safeguarding the well-being of our students, staff, and visitors. Their comprehensive security solutions, coupled with their proactive approach and commitment to ongoing training, have greatly contributed to the enhancement of our overall security posture. Additionally, their emphasis on exceptional customer service has fostered a welcoming and secure environment for everyone in our community. We wholeheartedly recommend HCCI Protection to any institution or organization seeking professional protective services. Their expertise, reliability, and dedication to excellence have far exceeded our expectations.

Cameron Chinatti  
Board Chairman  
Rocky Mountain Christian Academy

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# HCCI Professional Protective SERVICES

As a leader of a company who has contracted with HCCI, I can firsthand attest to your professionalism, responsiveness, and reliability. I am thankful for your team, provide. The fact that you go above and beyond for your clients sets you apart from the theatrical companies. There is no one else like HCCI!

Amanda Fox  
Former Principal - Rocky Mountain Christian Academy

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HCCI's staff has provided superior service in the way that they interact with our staff, members and community. HCCI has taken the time to get to know our regulars while also maintaining a welcoming presence to our guests. HCCI has given our community a sense of security in a time where there was so much fear. In times of confrontation, they have handled themselves with professionalism and diffused volatile situations.

Josh Gold  
Former Executive Director – Congregation Rodef Shalom

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## **Sources:**

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**Amber Box Gunshot Detection Assumption vs Reality: Do Emergency Response Times Significantly Affect Active Shooter Outcomes?** ([amberbox.com](http://amberbox.com))  
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**Call 720-476-0312, email [info@hcciprotection.com](mailto:info@hcciprotection.com), or visit our [Website](#) TODAY, to ensure a SAFER school environment for your CHILD TOMORROW!**