

NEW Building Access System

Frequently Asked Questions



Why was the system implemented?

PCPS received a state grant to install the system at our schools. This system is easy to manage and meets our safety goals. PMS facilities are utilized by multiple community groups. The new system will assist in managing access by those groups to specific parts of the building.



How will this new system benefit me or my child?

The Building Access System was implemented to enable authorized visitors and staff the ability to enter the building from more than one entrance while still ensuring the safety and security of the building.



Is the system used at other schools in Poquoson?

Yes. The grant allowed us to implement the system in all four schools.



Will my children be locked in the school?

No, all doors will remain unlocked on the inside of the building, and students and staff will always be able to exit as usual from inside the building.



Will I have trouble returning my child to school after an appointment?

No, you will just need to identify yourself before re-entering the building. As is the case now, you will need to escort your child to the front office to sign him or her in.



How will emergency personnel be able to access the building in the event of an emergency?

During school hours, front office staff will be available to unlock doors. The Building Access System also can be overridden remotely.



What happens if there is a delay to entry due to inclement weather?

School staff will be able to override the system if children arrive at a time later than scheduled. This can be easily accomplished whenever a bus is late arriving at a school for whatever reason.



Will someone always be available to buzz in a visitor?

During normal school hours, the front office is always staffed.



How long will it take to gain entry into a school?

A staff member will assist you as soon as possible. In most cases, you will be able to enter the building immediately. In rare cases it may take up to a minute after pressing the bell.



What happens when the power goes out?

Each building access system has a 24-hour backup to control the system in the event of a power outage. Should the outage last more than 24 hours, building principals will be able to open the doors manually. Of course, students and faculty will not typically be at school during an extended power outage.