

Chapter 61. School Districts**Subchapter CC. Commissioner's Rules Concerning School Facilities****§61.1031. School Safety Requirements.**

- (a) Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings.
- (1) Actively monitored--supervised by an adult who can visibly review visitors prior to entrance, who can take immediate action to close and/or lock the door, and whose duties allow for sufficient attention to monitoring.
 - (2) Exterior secured area--an area fully enclosed by a fence and/or wall that:
 - (A) if enclosed by a fence or wall, utilizes a fence or wall at least 6 feet high with design features that prevent it from being easily scalable, such as stone, wrought iron, chain link with slats or wind screen, or chain link topped with an anti-scaling device, or utilizes a fence or wall at least 8 feet high;
 - (B) is well maintained; and
 - (C) if gated, features locked gates with emergency egress hardware and has features to prevent opening from the exterior without a key or combination mechanism.
 - (3) Instructional facility--this term has the meaning assigned in Texas Education Code (TEC), §46.001, and includes any real property, an improvement to real property, or a necessary fixture of an improvement to real property that is used predominantly for teaching curriculum under TEC, §28.002. For purposes of this section, an instructional facility does not include real property, improvements to real property, or necessary fixtures of an improvement to real property that are part of a federal, state, or private correctional facility or facility of an institution of higher education, medical provider, or other provider of professional or social services over which a school system has no control.
 - (4) Modular, portable building--
 - (A) an industrialized building as defined by Texas Occupations Code (TOC), §1202.002 and §1202.003;
 - (B) any relocatable educational facility as defined by TOC, §1202.004, regardless of the location of construction of the facility; or
 - (C) any other manufactured or site-built building that is capable of being relocated and is used as a school facility.
 - (5) Primary entrance--
 - (A) the main entrance to an instructional facility that is closest to or directly connected to the reception area; or
 - (B) any exterior door the school system intends to allow visitors to use to enter the facility during school hours either through policy or practice.
 - (6) School system--a public independent school district or public open-enrollment charter school.
 - (7) Secure vestibule--a secured space with two or more sets of doors and an office sign-in area where all but the exterior doors shall:
 - (A) remain closed, latched, and locked;
 - (B) comply with subsection (c)(3)(B) of this section; and
 - (C) only open once the visitor has been visually verified.

- (b) The provisions of this section apply to all school instructional facilities owned, operated, or leased by a school system, regardless of the date of construction or date of lease. The provisions of this section ensure that all school system instructional facilities have access points that are:
- (1) secured by design;
 - (2) maintained to operate as intended; and
 - (3) appropriately monitored.
- (c) A school system shall implement the following safety and security standards compliance requirements to all school instructional facilities owned, operated, or leased by the school system.
- (1) All instructional facilities campus-wide, including modular, portable buildings, must include the addition of graphically represented alpha-numerical characters on both the interior and exterior of each exterior door location. The characters may be installed on the door, or on at least one door at locations where more than one door leads from the exterior to the same room inside the facility, or on the wall immediately adjacent to or above the door location. Characters shall comply with the International Fire Code, §505. The primary entrance of an instructional facility shall always be the first in the entire sequence and is the only door location that does not require numbering. The numbering sequence shall be clockwise and may be sequenced for the entire campus or for each facility individually. The door-numbering process must comply with any and all accessibility requirements related to signage.
 - (2) Unless a secure vestibule is present, a primary entrance shall:
 - (A) meet all standards for exterior doors;
 - (B) include a means to allow an individual located within the building to visually identify an individual seeking to enter the primary entrance when the entrance is closed and locked, including, but not limited to, windows, camera systems, and/or intercoms;
 - (C) feature a physical barrier that prevents unassisted access to the facility by a visitor; and
 - (D) feature a location for a visitor check-in and check-out process.
 - (3) All exterior doors shall:
 - (A) be, by default, set to a closed, latched, and locked status, except that:
 - (i) a door may be unlocked if it is actively monitored or within an exterior secured area; and
 - (ii) for the purposes of ventilation, a school system may designate in writing as part of its multi-hazard emergency operations plan under TEC, §37.108, specific exterior doors that are allowed to remain open for specified periods of time if explicitly authorized by the school safety and security committee established by TEC, §37.109, when a quorum of members are present, and only if it is actively monitored or within an exterior secured area;
 - (B) be constructed, both for the door and door frame and their components, of materials and in a manner that make them resistant to entry by intruders. Unless inside an exterior secured area, doors constructed of glass or containing glass shall be constructed or modified such that the glass cannot be easily broken and allow an intruder to open or otherwise enter through the door (for example, using forced entry-resistant film);
 - (C) include:
 - (i) a mechanism that fully closes and engages locking hardware automatically after entry or egress without manual intervention, regardless of air pressure within or outside of the facility; and
 - (ii) a mechanism that allows the door to be opened from the inside when locked to allow for emergency egress while remaining locked; and

- (D) if keyed for re-entry, be capable of being unlocked with a single (or a small set of) master key(s), whether physical key, punch code, or key-fob or similar electronic device.
- (4) Except when inside an exterior secured area, classrooms with exterior entry doors shall include a means to allow an individual located in the classroom to visually identify an individual seeking to enter the classroom when the door is closed and locked, including, but not limited to, windows, camera systems, and/or intercoms.
- (5) Except when inside an exterior secured area, all windows that are adjacent to an exterior door and that are of a size and position that, if broken, would easily permit an individual to reach in and open the door from the inside shall be constructed or modified such that the glass cannot be easily broken.
- (6) Except when inside an exterior secured area, all ground-level windows near exterior doors that are of a size and position that permits entry from the exterior if broken shall be constructed or modified such that the glass cannot be easily broken and allow an intruder to enter through the window frame (for example, using forced entry-resistant film).
- (7) If designed to be opened, all ground-level windows shall have functional locking mechanisms that allow for the windows to be locked from the inside and, if large enough for an individual to enter when opened or if adjacent to a door, be closed and locked when staff are not present.
- (8) Roof access doors should default to a locked, latched, and closed position when not actively in use and be lockable from the interior.
- (9) All facilities must:
 - (A) include one or more distinctive, exterior secure master key box(es) designed to permit emergency access to both law enforcement agencies and emergency responder agencies from the exterior (for example, a Knox box) at a location designated by the local authorities with applicable jurisdiction; or
 - (B) provide all local law enforcement electronic or physical master key access to the building(s).
- (10) A communications infrastructure shall be implemented that must:
 - (A) ensure equipment is in place such that law enforcement and emergency responder two-way radios can function within most portions of the building(s); and
 - (B) include a panic alert button, duress, or equivalent alarm system, via standalone hardware, software, or integrated into other telecommunications devices or online applications, that includes the following functionality:
 - (i) An alert must be capable of being triggered by campus staff, including temporary or substitute staff, from an integrated or enabled device.
 - (ii) An alert must be triggered automatically in the event a district employee makes a 9-1-1 call using the hardware or integrated telecommunications devices described in this subparagraph from any location within the school system.
 - (iii) With any alert generated, the location of where the alert originated shall be included.
 - (iv) The alert must notify a set of designated school administrators as needed to provide confirmation of response, and, if confirmed, notice must be issued to the 9-1-1 center of an emergency situation requiring a law enforcement and/or emergency response and must include the location of where the alert originated. A notice can simultaneously be issued to all school staff of the need to follow appropriate emergency procedures.
 - (v) For any exterior doors that feature electronic locking mechanisms that allow for remote locking, the alert system will trigger those doors to automatically lock.

- (11) In implementing the requirements of this section, school systems shall comply with state and federal Kari's Laws and federal RAY BAUM's Act and corresponding rules and regulations pertaining to 9-1-1 service for school telephone systems, including a multi-line telephone system.
- (d) Certain operating requirements. A school system shall implement the following.
 - (1) Access control. The board of trustees or the governing board shall adopt a policy requiring the following continued auditing of building access:
 - (A) conduct at least weekly inspections during school hours of all exterior doors of all instructional facilities to certify that all doors are, by default, set to a closed, latched, and locked status and cannot be opened from the outside without a key as required in subsection (c)(3)(A) of this section;
 - (B) report the findings of weekly inspections required by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph to the school system's safety and security committee as required by TEC, §37.109, and ensure the results are kept for review as part of the safety and security audit as required by TEC, §37.108;
 - (C) report the findings of weekly inspections required by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph to the principal or leader of the instructional facility to ensure awareness of any deficiencies identified and who must take action to reduce the likelihood of similar deficiencies in the future; and
 - (D) include a provision in the school system's applicable policy stating that nothing in a school system's access control procedures will be interpreted as discouraging parents, once properly verified as authorized campus visitors, from visiting campuses they are authorized to visit.
 - (2) Exterior and interior door numbering site plan.
 - (A) A school system must develop and maintain an accurate site layout and exterior and interior door designation document for each instructional facility school system-wide that identifies all exterior and interior doors in the instructional facility and depicts all exterior doors on a floor plan with an alpha-numeric designation, in accordance with the door numbering specifications established in subsection (c)(1) of this section.
 - (B) Copies of exterior and interior door numbering site plans shall be readily available in each campus main office.
 - (C) Electronic copies of exterior and interior door numbering site plans shall be supplied to the local 9-1-1 administrative entity so that the site plans can be made available to emergency responders by 9-1-1 dispatchers.
 - (D) The site layout and exterior and interior door designation document should be oriented in a manner that depicts true north.
 - (3) Maintenance.
 - (A) A school system shall perform at least twice-yearly maintenance checks to ensure the facility components required in subsection (c) of this section function as required. At a minimum, maintenance checks shall ensure the following:
 - (i) instructional facility exterior doors function properly, including meeting the requirements in subsection (c)(3)(A) and (C) of this section;
 - (ii) the locking mechanism for any ground-level windows that can be opened function properly;
 - (iii) any perimeter barriers and related gates function properly;
 - (iv) all panic alert or similar emergency notification systems in classrooms and campus central offices function properly, which includes at least verification from multiple campus staff and classroom locations that a notification can be

issued and received by the appropriately designated personnel, that the alert is successfully broadcast to all campus staff and to appropriate law enforcement and emergency responders, and that a potential threat observed on video triggers an alert from video surveillance monitoring systems;

- (v) all school telephone systems and communications infrastructure provide accurate location information when a 9-1-1 call is made in accordance with state and federal laws and rules and when an alert is triggered in accordance with this section;
 - (vi) all exterior master key boxes function properly and the keys they contain function properly;
 - (vii) law enforcement and emergency responder two-way radios operate effectively within each instructional facility; and
 - (viii) two-way radios used by school system peace officers, school resource officers, or school marshals properly communicate with local law enforcement and emergency response services.
- (B) A school system shall ensure procedures are in place to require that staff who become aware of a facility component functionality deficiency that would be identified during the twice-yearly maintenance review described by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph immediately report the deficiency to the school system's administration, regardless of the status of the twice-yearly maintenance review.
- (C) A school system shall promptly remedy any deficiencies discovered as a consequence of maintenance checks required by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph or reports made under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.
- (e) In implementing the requirements of this section, school systems shall comply with the provisions of §61.1040(j) of this title (relating to School Facilities Standards for Construction on or after November 1, 2021).
- (f) To the extent that any provisions of this section conflict with rules adopted in Chapter 61, Subchapter CC, of this title (relating to Commissioner's Rules Concerning School Facilities), including terms defined by this section or standards established by this section, the provisions of this section prevail.
- (g) In implementing the requirements of this section, school systems shall comply with the standards adopted under Texas Government Code, §469.052.
- (h) In implementing the requirements of this section, school systems must adopt a 3-year records control schedule that complies with the minimum requirements established by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission schedule, record series item number 5.4.017, as referenced in Texas Government Code, §441.169, and Texas Local Government Code, §203.041.
- (i) Certification.
- (1) All requirements in subsections (c) and (d) of this section shall be implemented during the 2022-2023 school year and thereafter. Annually, a school system shall certify compliance with those requirements as part of ongoing security audits under TEC, §37.108(b); maintain the certification locally; and report as required by the Texas School Safety Center. Any and all non-compliance shall be reported to the school system's safety and security committee, the school system's board, and the Texas School Safety Center, as required by TEC, §37.108(c).
 - (2) A school system may provisionally certify compliance of a facility component described in subsection (c) of this section that is not in compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection if:
 - (A) the school system has taken the necessary steps to initiate an upgrade of the facility component to ensure compliance; and

- (B) for the 2023-2024 school year, the contractor or supplier has been procured and has provided a time frame when the upgrade will be completed.
- (3) TEA may modify rule requirements or grant provisional certification for individual site needs as determined by the agency.
- (j) Subsection (i)(2) of this section and this subsection expire August 31, 2024.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §61.1031 issued under Texas Education Code, §7.061 and §37.115(b). Source: The provisions of this §61.1031 adopted to be effective May 31, 2023, 48 TexReg 2716. effective September 1, 2010, 35 TexReg 7796; amended to be effective July 20, 2021, 46 TexReg 4301

Highlights from Proposed Rulemaking

The [proposed School Safety Standards rule](#) requirements are summarized for quick reference below, consult the rule language for complete details of the proposed rule. Standards only apply to instructional facilities.

Key Terms

Instructional facility: A building predominantly used for teaching curriculum under TEC, §28.002. It includes facilities leased or owned. Some exclusions apply for specialized properties (e.g., hospitals, universities). *See subsection (a)(3).*

Actively monitored: Monitored by an adult whose primary duty at the time is to visibly review visitors upon approach and can take immediate action if necessary.

Secured area: A fence or wall that is at least six (6) feet in height and has anti-scaling design features or is eight (8) feet high; and must be well maintained, and if gated, allows for emergency egress.

Facility Components

Exterior Doors, Exterior Classroom doors, and portable doors should operate as fully intended, are required to remain closed, latched, and locked, and allow for emergency egress from the inside while remaining locked. Roof doors should remain closed and locked when not in use. *Doors can be unlocked during the instructional day if they are actively monitored or within a secured area.*

Windowed doors on the ground level or windows that are adjacent to or near a door and are large enough to allow someone to enter if broken must be reinforced with entry-resistant film unless within a secured area.

Panic Alert System must allow an alert to be triggered manually by campus staff, automatically with a 911 call, include location of where alert was triggered, alerts administrators which can then alert law enforcement, and can simultaneously send an alert to all staff. Where applicable, trigger doors to lock if electronic door system allows.

Other facility components that are required in the proposed rule include exterior door numbering, radio signal repeaters (where needed), and exterior secure master key lock boxes.

Operating Requirements

Exterior Door Sweeps must be conducted weekly to certify that all doors are properly closed, locked, and latched. Issues must be reported to the school safety and security committee and the campus principal in order to address any deficiencies.

Exterior Door Numbering Site Plan must be developed and accurately maintained, readily available in the main office, and shared digitally with the local 911 entity.

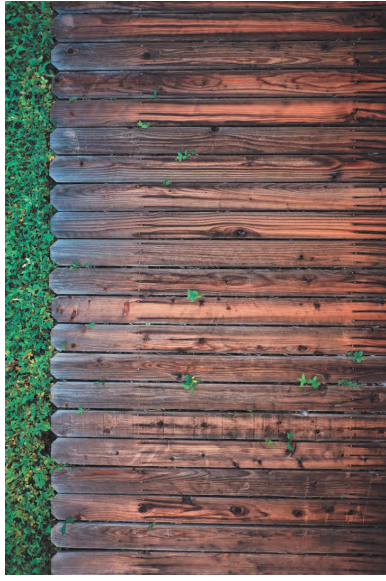
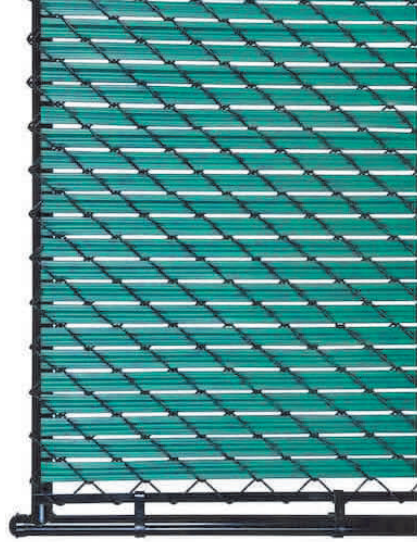
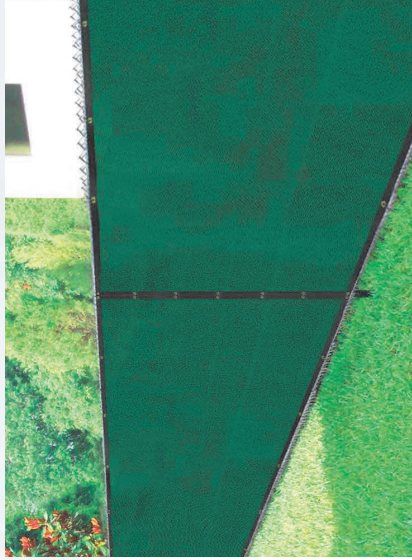
Maintenance Requirements

The school system must perform maintenance checks twice annually to ensure that the facility components within the rule function properly and as intended

Implementation and Certification Timeline for Facilities Upgrades







- 2022-2023 SY - School systems must certify requirements are met starting with the 2022-23 school
- August 2023 - Deadline to have contractor procured and a final timeline to complete all work required

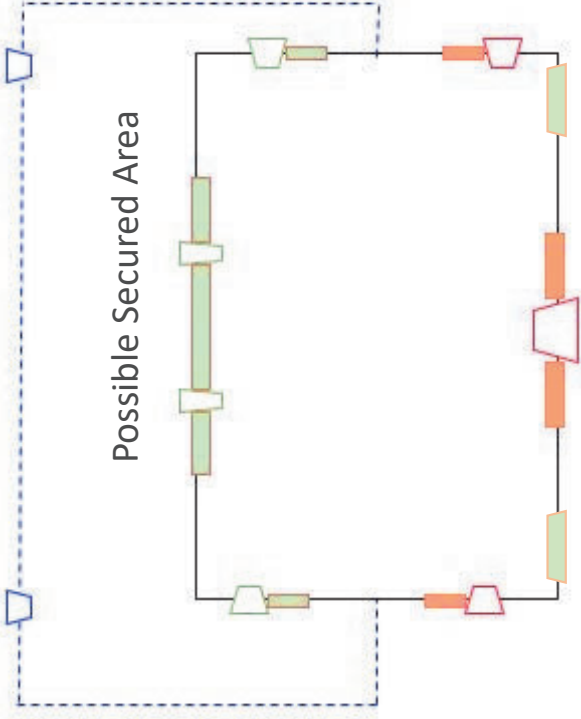
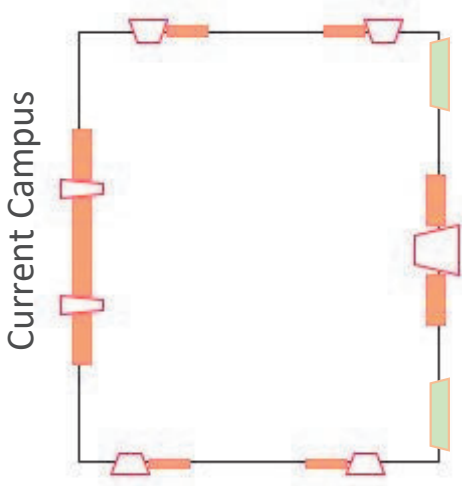
“Not Easily Scalable”



TEA

Secured Area Examples







-  Exterior Door - Required to be locked and reinforced if glass
-  Exterior Door - Not required to be locked or reinforced if glass
-  Emergency egress gate - Required to remain closed and locked
-  Ground window required to be reinforced
-  Ground window not required to be reinforced
-  Secured Fencing

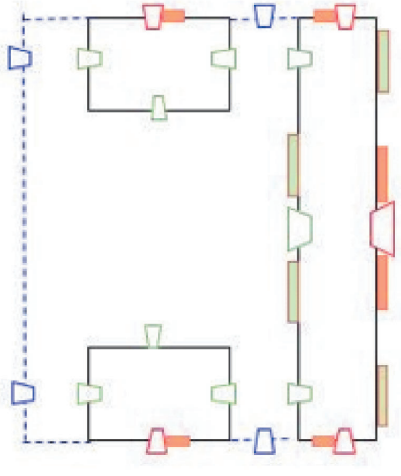
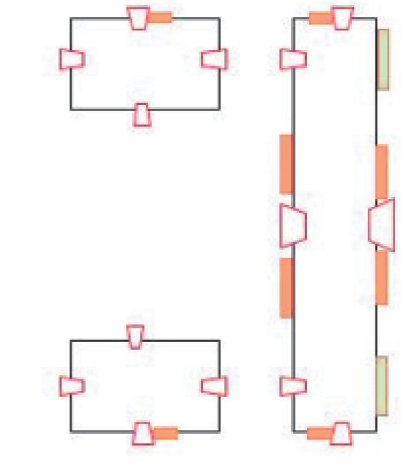


	Original Plan	With Possible Secured Area
Does this require fencing a new secured area?	No	Yes
Does this require fencing upgrades?	No	No
Total Number of Exterior Doors	7	7
Total Number of Exterior Doors that would need to be reinforced and would need to remain closed, latched and locked	7	3
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors	9	9
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors that would need reinforcement	9	4

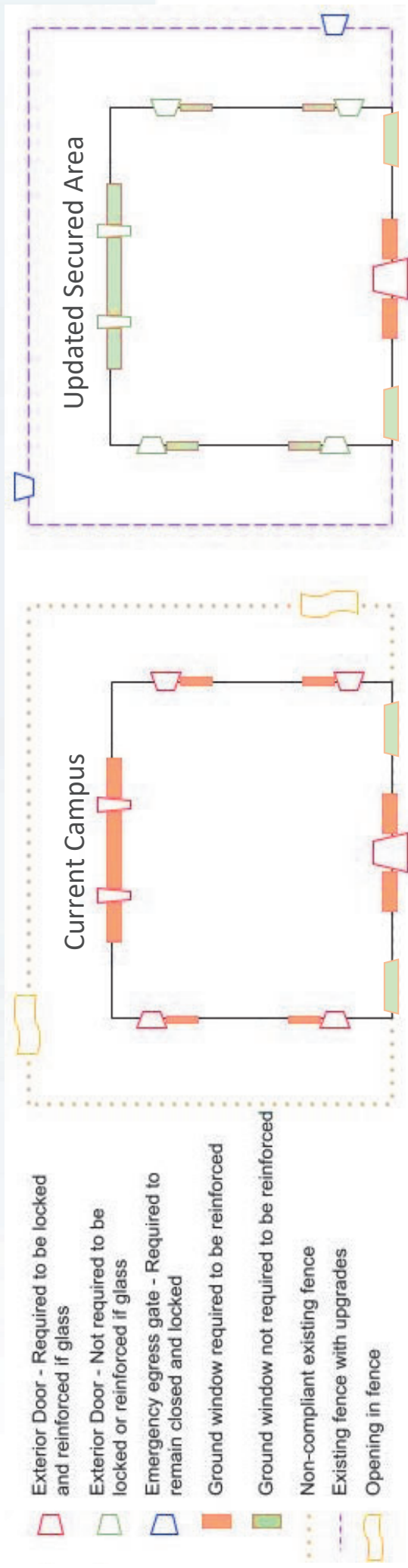
Current Campus

Possible Secured Area

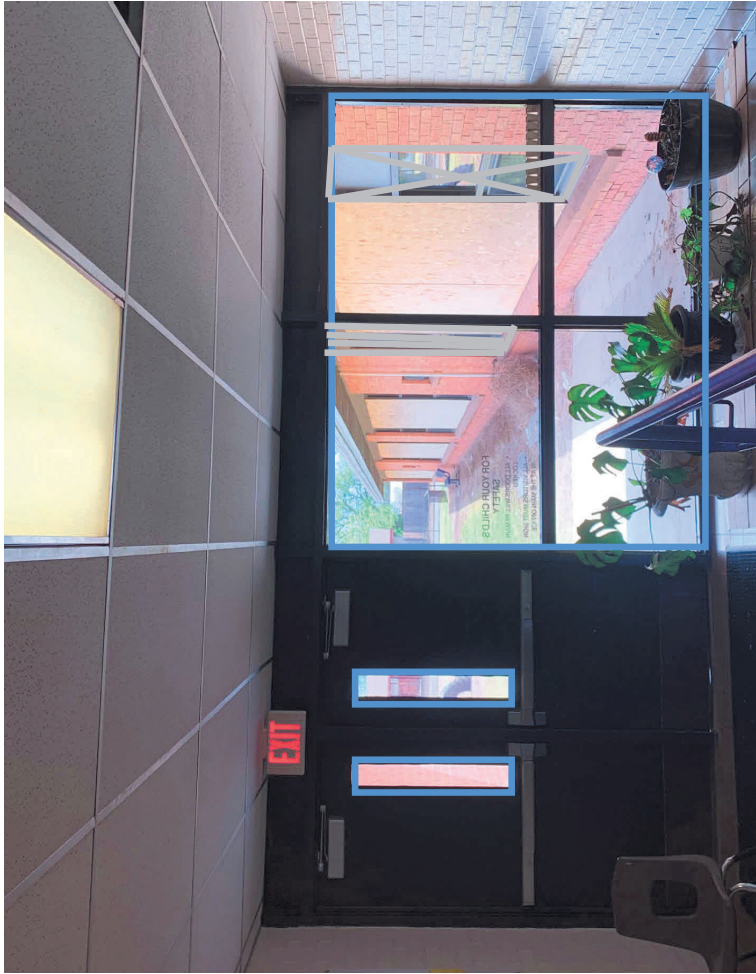
-  Exterior Door - Required to be locked and reinforced if glass
-  Exterior Door - Not required to be locked or reinforced if glass
-  Emergency egress gate - Required to remain closed and locked
-  Ground window required to be reinforced
-  Ground window not required to be reinforced
-  Secured Fencing



	Original Plan	With Possible Secured Area
Does this require fencing a new secured area?	No	Yes
Does this require fencing upgrades?	No	No
Total Number of Exterior Doors	14	14
Total Number of Exterior Doors that would need to be reinforced and would need to remain closed, latched and locked	14	5
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors	8	8
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors that would need reinforcement	8	6



	Original Plan	With Possible Secured Area
Does this require fencing a new secured area?	No	No
Does this require fencing upgrades?	No	Yes
Total Number of Exterior Doors	7	7
Total Number of Exterior Doors that would need to be reinforced and would need to remain closed, latched and locked	7	1
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors	9	9
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors that would need reinforcement	9	2



Facility Access Control – TAC §61.1031 ©(1-9)

COMPLIANCE DEFINITION: An LEA is considered compliant if ALL CAMPUSES have:

Exterior Doors

Working exterior doors that can properly close, latch and lock, has the same master key of at least most other exterior doors, is of sound construction that does not allow for easy forcible entry and allows for emergency egress while being able to remain closed, latched, and locked.

To be compliant, exterior doors should function as indicated above, and:

- Remain closed, latched, and locked through the instructional day,
OR
- Is within a secured area when keeping the doors closed, latched, and locked is not practicable.

Glass Exterior Doors

Glass exterior doors that are:

- Reinforced so that they are not easily breakable and allow for an intruder to enter
OR
- Within a secure area.

Windows Adjacent to Doors

Glass windows that are adjacent to or near an exterior door are:

- Reinforced such that the glass cannot be easily broken and allow an intruder to open or otherwise enter
OR
- Within a secured area.

Emergency Responder Access

Emergency Responder Access is:

- A secure exterior lock box that allows for emergency responder access through exterior doors
OR
- Provide local law enforcement electronic or physical master key access to the buildings.

Provisional Compliance

Provisional Compliance is:

- Contractor determined, board approved and funded, project completion date set.