

Your Foundation's Role in the National Conversation on School Security

An ongoing *Washington Post* analysis has found that more than 150,000 students attending at least 170 primary or secondary schools have experienced a shooting on campus since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999. The subject of school shootings and school security has unfortunately risen to the level of a national conversation, and this issue of *Door Security & Safety* reflects that.

There are several articles on this issue from experts throughout our industry, on subjects such as retrofit security devices; using a layered approach to designing safer schools; and how PASS (Partner Alliance for Safer Schools) recommendations can be implemented in schools.

There's also an article from Michele Gay, a Sandy Hook parent who lost her daughter Josephine Grace in that tragedy five years ago. Michele will be the keynote speaker May 9 at DHI Connexions in Baltimore, Md. After the shooting, Michele chose to take action as an advocate for improved school security and safety in our nation's schools. She co-founded Safe and Sound: A Sandy Hook Initiative, which works in school communities across the country, sharing practical school safety tools, resources, and education. The organization's work spans all aspects of ensuring school safety—from prevention, to response, and through recovery.

In addition to Michele's keynote presentation, there are other sessions at Connexions covering the issue of school security, including School

Security Strategies and *School Security and Lockdowns – Five Things You Need to Know*.

The Door Security & Safety Foundation (DSSF) has taken an active role in this issue and encourages door security and safety professionals to lend their expertise to their local school communities. As DHI and DSSF CEO Jerry Heppes, CAE, said in last month's *InTouch* column, "Clearly, the products our industry specifies, designs and supplies are part of the solution.... I challenge you to contribute in some manner."

DSSF launched its *Opening the Door to School Safety* campaign in December 2016 to raise awareness and to educate school administrators about the importance of safely securing classroom doors with code-compliant methods. DSSF believes that no door locking device that compromises life safety should be approved by any jurisdiction. Yet there are some proponents of barricade devices who cite the reduction in school fire deaths or the increased number of school shootings as a reason to relax the egress code requirements.

However, most in the code enforcement community credit strong codes and enforcement for this success.

DSSF's website on classroom security, www.lockdontblock.org, includes a video and webinar on the dangers of classroom barricade devices, and a toolkit to provide school superintendents, administrators and teachers with insight and information for better understanding secure and safe classroom door openings. There's also information on code-compliant locks and important documents from like-minded organizations such as the National Association of State Fire Marshals that have expressed support for the Foundation's campaign and are committed to school safety through code-compliant methods.

DSSF also advocates the use of door security and safety professionals who are trained to ensure that every entrance meets code and can provide the invaluable balance of life safety and security for schools and classrooms. You can find a door security and safety professional on the DSSF website at doorsecuritysafety.org and also on DHI's website at dhi.org.

Door Security & Safety FOUNDATION

Door Security & Safety Foundation Updates

DHI AND DSSF SUPPORT STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE ACT

DHI and DSSF proudly support the federal STOP School Violence Act legislation, funding for which was included in the \$1.3 trillion federal budget signed into law on March 23. The legislation will help schools and communities stop violence before it happens by providing resources focused on early intervention and school safety infrastructure.

“This bill is an important step in providing communities with much-needed funds to improve school security infrastructure and security technology, to protect our most precious natural resource – our children,” said Jerry Heppes Sr., CAE, CEO of DHI and the Door Security & Safety Foundation. “We understand how important safety is to the school community because our members design and build door openings that address a variety of scenarios.”

The omnibus funding bill also includes \$1.2 billion for programs in the education sector to improve school safety; legislation to improve school officials’ emergency preparedness; and increased funding for various mental health and law enforcement programs.

The Student, Teachers and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018 offers Department of Justice grants to states, ultimately helping schools implement proven, evidence-based programs and technologies that stop school violence before it happens. The act provides \$75 million in 2018 and \$100 million from 2019-2028

for schools to add security systems, improve coordination with local law enforcement agencies and train students, teachers and police on identifying and preventing violence.

Grow Your Fire Door Inspection Team with DAI300: Fire Door Assembly Inspection

TECHNICAL LEVEL COURSE

In our continued commitment to advance the FDAI program, we have created a new course to help FDAIs grow their inspection services and build an inspection team. DAI300: Fire Door Assembly Inspection will be taught in-house at your office by credentialed FDAIs to train employees to conduct in-field inspection of fire doors, under the supervision of an FDAI credentialed inspector. This course provides the technical knowledge and expertise to assist and support credentialed inspectors of swinging fire doors through all phases of the inspection process. For more information, go to www.dhi.org/DAI300 or call Valerie Gardner at 703.766.7013.

Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

DSSF’s Scholarship Program provides funds for individuals to attend DHI education. Applications are currently being accepted for the 12 available 2018 scholarship awards. You can download the scholarship application here. Please email all applications by June 18, 2018, to scholarships@doorsecuritysafety.org.

FDAIs Teach Healthcare Facilities New Fire Door Inspection Requirements through the Foundation

DSSF offers education for healthcare facility personnel who need to learn more about the new fire door inspection requirements. These classes are taught by FDAIs across North America. These FDAIs not only provide this education to current their customers, but use it

as a way to engage potential customers as well. If you are an FDAI interested in this exclusive Education Advocate opportunity, contact Sharon Newport for details. Learn more about DSSF educational offerings.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Need help finding a door security and safety professional? How about books or reference materials about building codes, fire and egress door assembly inspection or school security and safety? Check out our online resources for this important information.

Thank You to Our Contributors

Thank you to our contributors! We appreciate your support as we continue to grow the Foundation’s programs, messages and reach. New contributors can give online here. If you are interested in learning more about our work or contributing at a higher level, please contact Foundation CEO Jerry Heppes Sr., CAE, at jheppes@doorsecuritysafety.org. +

