



Background

Following a series of school shootings, schools around the country are looking to adopt “school hardening” measures, defined as fortifying schools through the presence of armed officials or increased physical security. For example, the Washoe County School District is already implementing measures to create “a single locked entry checkpoint” at 24 elementary schools (by summer 2019).

Some schools are exploring the increased use of metal detectors or deadbolt locks for certain doors, and greater control of entrances, exits, and external access. Some schools are looking at the following:

- Building front offices closer to entrances and creating vestibules where doors must be remotely unlocked before visitors can enter into the school
- Erecting barriers around campuses and stadiums that prevent vehicles from being driven into crowds or students;
- Installing metal detectors at school entrances;
- Installing security systems that monitor and record entrances, exits and hallways;
- Providing telephones or radios in every classroom so that teachers can quickly report threats;
- Installing active shooter alarm systems; and
- Controlled access to campus facilities.

In 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice assessed the comparative advantages of different security technology options schools could deploy and possible costs (see Table 1, Column B). The Guinn Center has updated these costs by reaching out to manufacturers (Table 1, Column C).

Table 1. Estimated Costs of Security Technologies

A	B	C
Security Technology	Estimated Costs (2006)	Estimated Costs (2018)
Cameras	\$1,000-\$1,500	\$2000-\$3000 (includes 4 cameras with a DVR system)
Remote Access for Doorways (Buzzer System)	\$10,000 per school	\$3,000 per two-door system
Metal Detectors	\$50,000 per school. (Cost includes detector & trained personnel.)	\$4,000-\$5,000 per individual unit
Handheld Metal Detectors	\$400 each	\$200 each
Scan (ID) cards	\$30,000 per small (elementary) school; \$200,000 for large (high) school	\$1,500-\$2,500 per single door entry system

Nevada has approximately 259 high and middle high schools (large schools) and 413 elementary schools (including charters but excluding alternative schools). Schools within the Clark County School District currently have surveillance cameras. Using updated costs (as of 2018), the Guinn Center estimated the possible cost of deploying the various security technologies in all eligible public schools across the 17 school districts (excluding charters) (see Table 2). Admittedly, schools and districts are likely to deploy technologies that address the physical vulnerabilities of the individual school site; some school sites may not require the use of all security technologies.

Table 2. Estimate of Costs of Deploying Various Security Technologies in Eligible Public Schools

Security Technology	Cost (2018)	Quantity	# of eligible schools in Nevada	Total Expected Cost
Cameras	\$2,000-\$3000	4 per school (excluding CCSD schools)	318	\$636,000-\$954,000
Remote Access for Doorways (Buzzer System)	\$3,000 per two-door system	One per school	672	\$2,016,000
Metal Detectors	\$4,000-\$5,000 per individual unit. Cost includes detector & trained personnel.	One per school	672	\$2,688,000-\$3,360,000
Handheld Metal Detectors	\$200 each	Three per school	672	\$403,200
Scan cards	\$1,500-\$2,500 per single door entry system	413 elementary 259 high/middle	672	\$1,008,000 \$1,680,000
	TOTAL	ESTIMATED	COST	\$6,751,200-\$8,413,200

About the Guinn Center

The Guinn Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, bipartisan, independent policy institute focused on providing fact-based, relevant, and well-reasoned analysis of critical policy issues facing Nevada and the Intermountain West. The Guinn Center engages policy-makers, experts, and the public with innovative, data-driven research and analysis to advance policy solutions, inform the public debate, and expand public engagement.

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