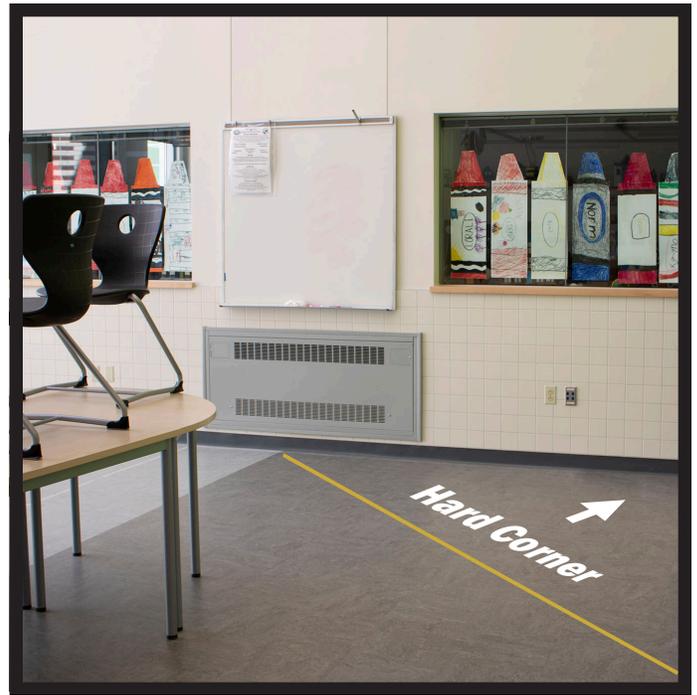


# School Safety Recommendations for Hard Corners



## What is a hard corner?

“Hard corners are areas in classrooms where students and teachers would not be visible from hallways, windows or door openings.”<sup>1</sup> Hard corners “are areas located at an angle that would prevent anyone firing a gun through the classroom door from hitting anyone.”<sup>2</sup>

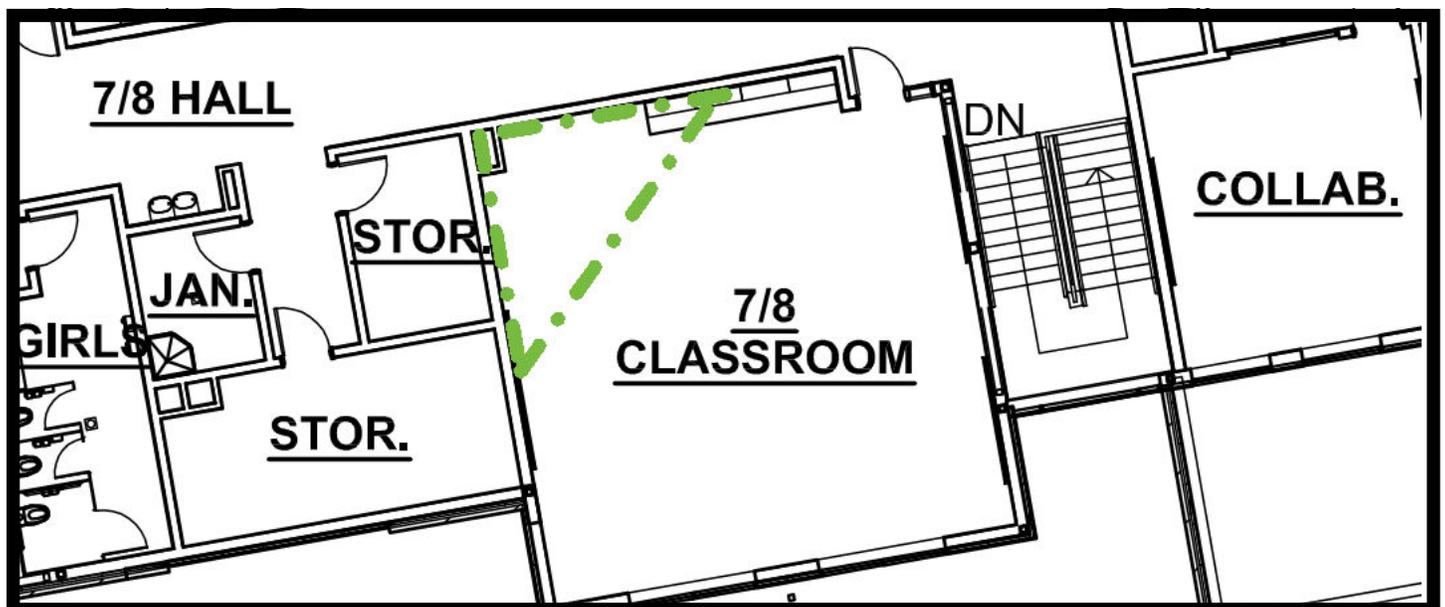
## Why are hard corners important to your school?

Lessons learned from tragic events in other states, most recently the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, recommends schools adopt hard corner safety measures.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission stated that hard corners are a necessity. The initial after action report included that “the District’s failure to mandate and implement hard corners or safe areas in every classroom was a safety breach that contributed to students being shot.”<sup>1</sup>

## How do schools identify hard corners?

Classroom hard corners can be identified as an area in the classroom not visible from the hallway through a window in a door or interior windows. Work with your local law enforcement agency to locate the best option for each classroom.

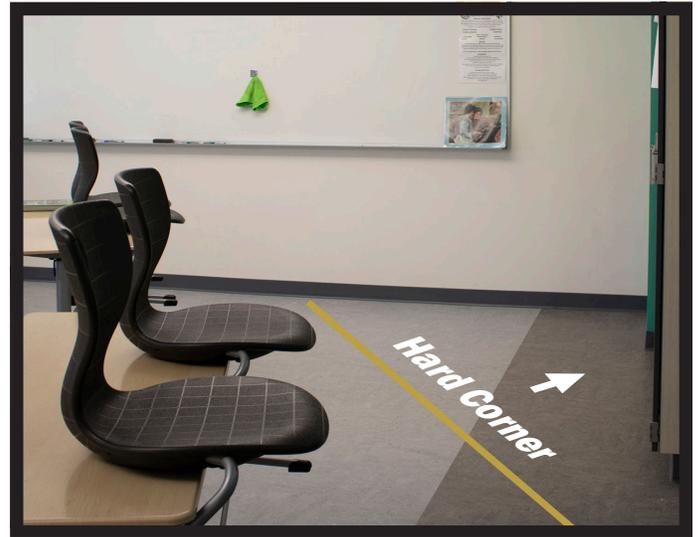


Once the hard corner is identified, marking the area for easy recognition during an emergency is vital. Indicating the hard corner can be done by marking the floor, using a logo or school mascot image on the wall, or a combination of the two. Marking the hard corner should be consistent from room to room. This allows teachers, substitutes, and staff to acclimate to the procedure regardless of what room they find themselves in. Consider keeping the way hard corners are marked consistent with all schools in the same SAU to allow substitute teachers to quickly acclimate to the school that they are working for.

## Hard corner policy

Consider developing a hard corner policy as part of the school's active threat protocol, which should reflect when hard corners should be used. Drills should be scheduled to practice the use of hard corners. A hard corner policy compliments the Run, *Hide*, Fight Federal recommendation for active threat response.<sup>3</sup> Door locking and/or barricading should be completed in conjunction with utilizing a hard corner if *Hide* (also called lockdown) is the chosen response action. All students and staff members should be able to stand in the hard corner and not be visible from the doorway. Hard corners should be clear of debris, desks, and other items that would hinder defense or evacuation.<sup>1</sup> If the classroom is breached by a threat, students and staff should not remain stationary in the hard corner, but should move into a different response action.

Active threat events can be fluid in nature, while one response action may be chosen initially; students and staff should be prepared to transition to a different response action if the situation changes.<sup>1</sup>



- 1 - Codd, C. (2019, February). Broward School Board Votes To Establish New Safety Policies on Hard Corners. CBS Miami. Retrieved from <https://miami.cbslocal.com/2019/02/20/broward-school-board-votes-to-establish-new-safety-policies-on-hard-corners-cod-red-alerts/>
- 2 - Greene, L. (2018, November). Hard Corners. idighardware. Retrieved from <https://idighardware.com/2018/11/hard-corners/>
- 3 - Active Shooter. (2019). Ready.gov. Retrieved from <https://www.ready.gov/active-shooter>

## HOMELAND SECURITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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