

February 2, 2023

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is revising its state-wide variance from certain requirements of the Kansas Fire Prevention Code in preparing for and responding to active shooter and lock down situations in all K-12 and postsecondary educational buildings in Kansas. This variance allows covered institutions to continue the use of additional add on security devices for classroom doors with prior approval by the State Fire Marshal's Office. It now also allows for the use of magnetic strips on door frames that allow for the quick and easy securing of classroom doors in the event of a lockdown situation, but only when the classroom is occupied. At all other times the doors must be allowed to close securely to help prevent the spread of fire. The barricading of classroom doors as recommended in the ALICE training program will still be allowed.

The terms of this variance require schools and school districts to contact their local fire, law enforcement, and first responder community and confidentially share with them the types of devices being used so the responders know what to expect in any type of response.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal encourages any school district that has questions on which devices will be allowed under terms of this variance to contact our office for assistance, before implementing any devices or making any purchases.



Doug Jorgensen
Kansas State Fire Marshal