



**STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION**

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To: Iowa K-12 Educational Facilities

From: Kyle R. Gorsh, Special Agent in Charge

Re: Locking Classroom Doors

Date: October 1, 2019

In light of recent mass shootings across the United States, school districts have pursued ways to achieve security by looking at door locks and securement devices. Schools are required to use hardware that meets the following code requirements:

- Doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort. (International Fire Code 2015 edition, section 1010.1.9)
- Bolt locks of any kind are not permitted. (International Fire Code 2015 edition, section 1010.1.9.4)
- Unlatching of the door should not require more than one motion. (International Fire Code 2015 edition, section 1010.1.9.5)
- Classroom locks are permitted and encouraged to be used on all classroom doors. Pictures of compliant door hardware:



Hallway side view



Classroom side view