Creating safe learning environments is everyone's responsibility. School facilities should be a safe place for students and faculty alike and we must continue to think about building in safety and security measures as buildings are designed.

WHAT IS CPTED?

CPTED is the design, maintenance, and use of the built environment in order to enhance quality of life and reduce both the incidence and feat of crime.

OHIO SCHOOL DESIGN MANUAL (OSDM)

The OSDM is available to download from the OFCC website, http://ofcc.ohio.gov/Resources/DesignManual(OSDM).aspx.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The safety of students and staff is a primary concern for OFCC. But how do you make a building secure?

For K-12 facilities, the Ohio School Design Manual (OSDM) offers guidelines and standards and uses a variety of methods to ensure the safety of K-12 students as new school buildings are designed or schools are renovated.

Among the many security options the OSDM provides is the integration and use of equipment and technology. Cameras and door access systems, designed to be unobtrusive as possible but highly effective, are two of the most commonly chosen. The additional layers of surveillance cameras and door access systems provide protection against outsiders who may try to gain access to the facility and also serve as a deterrent to student behaviour problems on school grounds.

Colleges and universities are also focused on student and faculty often focusing on school climate, safety and security when renovating or building new facilities.

BUILDING DESIGN

Physical environment plays a critical role in keeping students safe. The facility should provide an inviting environment in which students can be protected from threats and learning can take place. Students who feel safe are both psychologically and physiologically more receptive to learning.

OFCC encourages design professionals and educators to incorporate hte concept known as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is the design, maintenance, and use of the built environment in order to enhance quality of life and reduce both the incidence and feat of crime. CPTED involves the balanced application of three principles.

Natural Surveillance

Natural surveillance is achieved through design and maintenance that allow people engaged in their normal

activity to easily observe the space around them, as well as eliminating hiding places for people engaged in criminal activity. Natural surveillance is generally achieved by:

- Using appropriate lighting
- Low or see-through fencing or landscape
- Removal of areas that offer concealment
- Placement of windows, doors, and walkways to provide the opportunity for easy observation of surrounding areas

Territoriality

Territoriality means providing clear designation between public, private, and semi-private areas and makes it easier for people to understand, and participate in, an area's intended use.

Territoriality communicates a sense of active 'ownership' of an area that can discourage the perception that illegal acts may be committeed in the area without notice or consequences. The use of see-through screening, low fencing, gates, signage, different pavement textures, or other landscaping elements that visually show the transition between areas intended for different uses are examples of the principle of territoriality.

Access Control

Access control is a concept directed primarily at decreasing criminal accessibility, especially into areas where a person with criminal intent would not easily been seen by others.

Examples of access control would include a highly visible gate or entry way through which all users of a property must enter, or the appropriate use of signage, door and window locks, or fencing to discourage unwanted access into private space or into dark or unmonitored areas.

SAFETY AND SECURITY RESOURCES

Safer Schools in Ohio

The Center for P-20 Safety and Security is a collaboration of Higher Education and the Ohio Department of Education to create safe and supportive learning environments. **https://safer-schools.ohio.gov**

Attorney General's School Safety Task Force

The School Safety Task Force has produced a comprehensive report of recommendations and resources that addresses school safety plans and operations, training and local partnerships to manage school-based critical incidents. **http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/SchoolSafety.**

National Crime Prevention Council

School Safety and Security Toolkit - a guide for parents, schools and communities. **http://ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/school-safety/bsstoolkit_complete.pdf**

Association for Learning Environments (formerly CEFPI)

Safe Schools: A Best Practices Guide, **http://media.a4le.org/SafeSchoolsGuide.pdf.**

ABOUT OFCC

OFCC is responsible for guiding capital projects for state agencies, state-supported universities and community colleges, including Ohio's comprehensive public K-12 school construction and renovation program. The Commission also manages the State's cultural facilities, school security, and community school classroom facilities grants programs.