• *Mechanical push button on cylindrical or mortise locks.* This option uses a push-button or turn-button on the inside trim to lock the outside trim or throw a deadbolt. When the button is activated, a valid key must be inserted from the outside to gain access. Although this is a quick and easy solution, the disadvantage is that students can also operate the button and lock the door in nonemergency situations. To counter this, teachers need to always carry a key.

• *Thumbturn on mortise locks.* This uses a thumbturn on the inside trim to lock the outside trim or throw a deadbolt. When the thumbturn is turned, a valid key must be inserted from the outside to gain access. This option has the same disadvantages as the push button.

• *Key from the inside.* Also called the intruder classroom function lock, this option is available on both cylindrical and mortise locks. It allows the outside trim to be locked by turning a key in the inside cylinder. With this option, teachers need to be trained to always keep their keys on their person.

• *Electronic push button from inside.* Employed on battery-operated or wired locks, pressing a push button on the inside escutcheon places the lock into privacy mode. A valid privacy override credential must be presented at the escutcheon to gain access. Unfortunately, students can still operate the button and lock the door in nonemergency situations, so teachers must always carry their valid privacy override credential.

• *Credential from inside.* Many manufacturers provide battery-operated locksets that are equipped with an additional reader on the inside trim. In the case of an emergency, a teacher must present their credential to the inside trim and the outside trim is put into lockdown mode. To gain access, a valid lockdown override credential must be presented to the outside trim.

No Teacher Involvement

Wired or wireless lockdown are locking devices that are wired to the panel, to software or connected via wireless to gateways or hubs can be locked down remotely. This absolves teachers of having to perform any locking tasks from the inside.

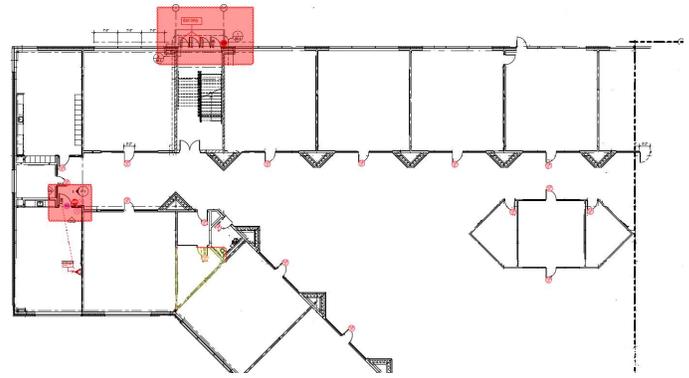Wired or wireless remote lockdown is initiated by:

• *Software.* Most access control systems can lock down wired or wireless locking devices or readers from the software. The primary disadvantage of this option is that an administrator must be logged into the software and issue the command. In an emergency, this may not be the most practical or time-sensitive approach.

• *Physical credentials.* A physical or mobile credential can be programmed to immediately send a command to the software to issue a lockdown to other wired or wireless openings upon presentation to any wired or wireless locking device or reader. These credentials would be given to the principal and other selected staff members.

• B*uttons.* A switching mechanism, such as a mushroom button, can also be used as a trigger to implement a lockdown command. The location of switching devices is critical and should be carefully considered during the initial system design.

Enhancing School Safety

It is often assumed that a lockdown command automatically locks all networked openings in a facility. Although this is a common practice, it does not necessarily need to be the case.

fficials at educational facilities frequently approach their school security plan by splitting their buildings into separate lockdown ones giving them the ability to affect a local lockdown for a specific area.   or e ample, a lockdown can target all interior doors but allow the e terior openings to be easily accessed by emergency response teams.

When a lockdown command is issued either in the software or at wired or wireless openings, rules can be set up in the software to carry out various tasks.

• *Sound an alarm.   he most common tas is to activate an audible silent or visual alarm.*

Send alerts to security and medical personnel.   he system can automatically send a notification to first responders   hich results in a uic er response time.

Push alerts to personnel in different parts of the building.   his is helpf ul in large schools or campuses to communicate uic ly   ith everyo ne regarding a potential threat.

Initiate video cameras.   any of today s access control platforms can also be programmed to interface   ith and activate video cameras.