

**Subject:** FW: Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch Position on Fencing at "Soft Targets"/Public Schools  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 2:12:04 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Don Parcell  
**To:** Brooke King  
**Attachments:** image001.png, image002.jpg

It was a picture of a push-bar emergency-exit gate. I deleted the picture at the end as I did not think it really mattered, but if you want to keep it in, that's fine.



Don Parcell  
Director of Operations  
Palisades Charter High School  
15777 Bowdoin St. | Pacific Palisades, CA 90272  
Office: 310.230.6625 | [dparcell@palihigh.org](mailto:dparcell@palihigh.org)

*PCHS will empower our diverse student population to make positive contributions to the global community by dedicating our resources to ensure educational excellence, civic responsibility, and personal growth.*

---

**From:** Jones, BJ@CalOES <Bj.Jones@CalOES.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:08 PM  
**To:** Don Parcell <dparcell@palihigh.org>  
**Subject:** Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch Position on Fencing at "Soft Targets"/Public Schools

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Here is a synopsis of our discussion February 2, 2022 - Assistant Chief BJ Jones from the California Office of Emergency Services Law Enforcement Branch (CalOES).

I am in favor of perimeter fencing for educational facilities. Schools are considered "soft targets" and should have one primary monitored entrance/exit point for safety and security. This is designed to control of who enters and exits the to the site/school. Perimeter fencing should have other escape routes in the event students and staff need to egress quickly (figure 1). Full perimeter fencing is the norm and desired with proper emergency egress considerations. Besides being a primary and baseline layer of security at a school, of which additional layers of security can be added if desired (guards, technology detectors, surveillance cameras, etc.), perimeter fencing is the first layer of deterrence and can help prevent some people from further planning a breach or attack – not deter all planned attacks, but some. The best way to explain the layers of security is to think of having in place concentric circles around the location to be protected. The concentric circles do not have to be physical barriers only and are not necessarily circular in physical appearance. This philosophy can be part of a larger security posture that must be communicated to all students and staff. Fencing will also help slow someone down during their initial attack which may enable the school to have an extra minute to warn everyone to lockdown, which could be invaluable. Alternatives to providing perimeter security without fencing may not be cost effective. The cost additional Security Guards

may prevent effective location assignment. The first layer of security is fencing. Other alternatives are not generally as effective as perimeter fencing.

Figure 1.



Thank you,

B. J. Jones, Assistant Chief  
Law Enforcement Coordinator, Region 5  
Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch  
Phone: [\(916\) 802-4240](tel:(916)802-4240)  
Email: [bj.jones@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:bj.jones@caloes.ca.gov)  
24 hr Warning Center - [\(916\) 845-8911](tel:(916)845-8911)

***CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:*** *This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.*