
How CPTED Can Be an Easy, Cost-Effective Way to Make Your School Safer



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Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), once called ‘defensible

Natural surveillance is crucial to the security of a facility. Criminal activity thrives when there is a low expectation of getting caught. The best way to address this issue is to create a space in which there is no place to hide.

spaces’ (Jeffery, 1971; Newman, 1966), describes ways in which the design and modifications of facilities can help thwart criminal activity and deter violence. CPTED strategies derive from the best practices of architects, security consultants, law enforcement, city planners and management, educators and facility administrators (Angel, 1968; Atlas, 2008; Jeffery, 1989; University & NCPI, 2000), and many of these principles are easy to identify and cost very little (or nothing!)

to implement. CPTED involves three principle components to manage exposure to crime and harm: natural surveillance, access control and territoriality.

Think about the security of your facility’s entrances (Spicer, n.d.). Regulations and limitations imposed on entrances reduce the number of opportunities for intruders to enter the facility. Consider the inclusion of perimeter fencing to deter trespassers and limit the number of points of entry.

The identification of spaces is a CPTED principle that is inexpensive and easy to employ.

[Read Full Summary.](#)

Jeffery, C. R. (1971). *Crime prevention through environmental design*. Sage Publications
Newman, O. (1966). *Creating Defensible Space*. DIANE Publishing.

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