

Case Study: Legacy Elementary School

Attack-Resistant Door System Solutions for Legacy Elementary School

FORTE
OPENING SOLUTIONS



Door Solutions in Education

INDUSTRY

Education - K-3

LOCATION

Uvalde, TX

ARCHITECT FIRM[Huckabee | a MOREgroup brand](#)**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**[Satterfield & Pontikes Construction](#)**About Uvalde CISD & the Foundation**

Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (CISD) partnered with the Uvalde CISD Moving Forward Foundation to create a new campus that supports healing, safety, and long-term student well-being. Established to help the community recover after the tragedy at Robb Elementary, the Foundation led a fundraising effort that generated more than \$60 million through generous family, business, and statewide contributions.

Working together, Uvalde CISD and the Foundation engaged families, educators, and community members to shape a school grounded in belonging, resilience, and a supportive learning environment—reflecting the hopes and needs of the Uvalde community.

**Project Background****Building a New Campus Rooted in Healing and Hope**

In the wake of the tragedy at Robb Elementary, Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (CISD) and the Uvalde CISD Moving Forward Foundation committed to creating a new school that would provide students a safe, supportive place to learn. The goal was not only to replace a campus but to design an environment that restores trust, prioritizes well-being, and reflects the hopes of the Uvalde community.

Through an extensive, trauma-informed design process, the district gathered input from families, survivors, educators, law enforcement, and community members to shape the vision for Legacy Elementary. Their shared vision focused on strengthening safety without creating an institutional environment, honoring the lives lost, and providing modern, collaborative learning spaces that support connection and healing.

“Our goal was to create a school where students feel protected, supported, and at ease. Legacy Elementary reflects the needs and hopes of the Uvalde community.”

— Ashley Chohlis, Superintendent, Uvalde CISD

The Challenge**Creating a Safe, Welcoming Environment Without Feeling Institutional**

Uvalde CISD needed a campus that met complex emotional, safety, and functional requirements. The design had to incorporate advanced security features while maintaining a warm, non-institutional atmosphere. This required door and hardware solutions capable of supporting secure access control, discreet monitoring, and rapid lockdown functionality across classroom, administrative, and public spaces.

All systems needed to align with trauma-informed design principles and the community-driven vision that guided the project.

The Solution**Integrating Layered Security with Trauma-Informed Design**

As part of our commitment to school safety, and to support the campus' layered security strategy, Forte donated all the attack-resistant door system assemblies for the project. Designed to integrate seamlessly with Huckabee's trauma-informed architectural approach, these assemblies incorporate attack-resistant glazing, metal vision frames, and heavy-duty cores that support the required hardware packages while delivering quiet, smooth operation.



Project Overview

- **Trauma-informed 116,000 sq. ft. campus** designed to support healing and safety for grades 3–5.
- **Community-shaped design** guided by advisory meetings, charrettes, and public input.
- **Layered security features** including controlled vestibules, attack-resistant door systems, and zoned circulation.
- **Cultural design elements** inspired by Uvalde's landscape and heritage.
- **Memorial oak sculpture** with 21 symbolic branches honoring those lost.
- **Modern learning spaces** including 36 classrooms, collaboration areas, STEM labs, arts rooms, and a gym.
- **New district standard** that sets updated specifications for future facilities.

Forte ensured each opening met performance needs for controlled access, visibility, and emergency response. Door assemblies were coordinated to accommodate electrified hardware, monitoring points, and other security technologies incorporated across the campus. Design-forward detailing and quiet operation help maintain the warm, welcoming environment central to the school's trauma-informed approach.

Reinforced door systems, hardware-integrated solutions, and code-compliant frames were aligned to strengthen occupant protection while blending discreetly into the building's cultural and regional aesthetic.

"Safety here is intentionally woven into the design — strong where needed, subtle where possible. The result is a campus that protects without feeling institutional."

— Huckabee Design Team

The Result

A Modern Learning Environment That Supports Safety and Well-Being

Legacy Elementary now provides students with a secure, uplifting environment that strengthens safety while preserving its community-centered design. Forte's door and hardware solutions play a critical role in supporting the school's layered security approach—enhancing classroom protection, streamlining access control, and reinforcing key zones throughout the campus.

The attack-resistant door assemblies blend into the architectural aesthetic, providing meaningful protection without drawing attention to security features.

Combined with specialized learning environments, cultural and memorial elements, and a strong focus on student well-being, the campus stands as a



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Ashley Chohlis
Superintendent,
Uvalde CISD

symbol of resilience for Uvalde. Forte's solutions help create a welcoming setting rather than an institutional one—supporting confidence, comfort, and peace of mind for everyone who walks through its doors.

Project Partners

Collaboration That United Community, Design, and Security Experts

[Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District](#) (CISD) serves the Uvalde community through a district-wide commitment to student learning, safety, and well-being. The District oversees multiple campuses and programs focused on academic growth, inclusive educational environments, and long-term student success.

The [Uvalde CISD Moving Forward Foundation](#) is a nonprofit organization created to support the District's long-term recovery efforts and fund future-ready educational facilities. Through philanthropy and community partnership, the Foundation advances projects that promote healing, safety, and student-centered learning environments.

[Huckabee](#), a MOREgroup brand, is a nationally recognized architecture and engineering firm dedicated to designing innovative, student-focused learning environments. With deep expertise in educational planning, safety, and community engagement, Huckabee partners with school districts to create spaces that support learning, connection, and well-being.

[Satterfield & Pontikes Construction](#) is a leading general contractor delivering complex projects across K-12, higher education, commercial, and public-sector markets. Known for technical expertise, quality execution, and collaborative project delivery, S&P builds facilities that serve communities for generations.

[Forte Opening Solutions](#) delivers a full range of commercial door systems and components designed to meet performance needs and design priorities across education, healthcare, hospitality, and office spaces. Previously known as Masonite Architectural, Forte Opening Solutions is backed by a legacy of trusted brands, including Marshfield DoorSystems, Algoma Hardwoods, Mohawk Doors, Baillargeon, and Haring. Forte is committed to making every door, every interaction, and every opening unforgettable.