



Application:
Public School System

Location:
Gloversville
Enlarged School District;
Gloversville, NY

Products:
SL-17 FRP Doors

**Special-Lite Sales
Representative:**
Dugan Associates

Special-Lite Doors Save Maintenance Hours for New York School District

Bill Ferguson, Director of Operations and Facilities for the Gloversville Enlarged School District, was introduced to Special-Lite Fiberglass Reinforced Polyester Doors five years ago through his peers in the New York State Association for Superintendents of School Buildings and Grounds. As part of a capital project to renovate the district's high school, he was seeking bids for an exterior door product that could help reduce the number of man hours required to maintain doors and door hardware—eight hours a week at the high school alone.

With 800 students in and out of its doors throughout the day, the entrances at Gloversville High School take quite a beating. District Architect Kevin Ellis, a senior associate with CSArch Architecture | Construction Management in Albany, explained that the school was in need of a door that could stand up to not only the regular wear and tear associated with normal use, but the abusive environment of an inner-city high school.

“We’re not talking about normal wear and tear, we’re talking about teenagers being teenagers,” said Ellis, who has been using Special-Lite Doors in projects since 1990. “We’re talking about young men running down the hall and kicking the door open—the closers fall off, the doors dent, the glass breaks. Special-Lite Doors hold up better to that sort of thing. I haven’t had to replace a Special-Lite Door in 20 years.”

Special-Lite sales representative Walter Eggenberger of Dugan Associates worked with the district on a series of demonstrations and eventually installed a set of promotional doors at the high school. Impressed with the performance of the pilot doors, Ferguson specified the SL-17 for the renovation.

“I was eating up eight man hours a week repairing doors,” said Ferguson. “We have been able to redirect those man hours and concentrate more on our preventative maintenance systems.”

Sticking with Special-Lite

Gloversville ESD has been under constant construction for the past five years. After the high school renovation, Special-Lite Doors were installed in all five elementary schools. All of the new buildings in the district contain Special-Lite Doors, including a new transportation maintenance center. Ferguson intends to specify the SL-17 Doors for the pending renovation of the Gloversville Middle School, the district’s only remaining classroom building with original doors.

“I saw the results we achieved at the high school and extended it into the other phases of the project,” Ferguson said. “I’ve been very pleased with the results. They hold up extremely well compared to what we had before.”

Superior Doors Contribute to HVAC Efficiency

Improving heating and cooling efficiency was a key objective in the renovation of Gloversville High School. In addition to the new heating systems, roofing, windows and related equipment, Ferguson believes that replacing the aging aluminum doors in the building with thermally superior FRP doors was a contributing factor to a 20 percent decrease in the facility’s HVAC costs.

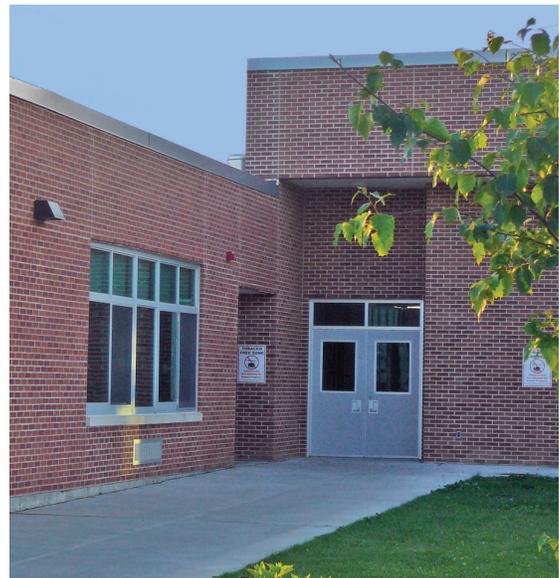
“I know we’re not losing as much heat out of the building and I’ve seen the increase in efficiency as a result,” he said.

The Special-Lite SL-17 FRP door is engineered for superior thermal performance compared to conventional hollow metal doors. Its urethane foam core is injected into a preassembled door body to ensure properly sealed construction. The door’s impenetrable core has performed exceptionally on third-party tests measuring heat loss and resistance to heat loss.

Gloversville High School took the additional step of reducing the size of vision lites in its main entry doors. Previously full glass doors, the reduction of vision lites in favor of a larger FRP surface improved thermal efficiency while decreasing the potential for accidental breakage or vandalism.



FRP Doors with double lites



FRP Doors with recessed pull



For more information or to locate the Special-Lite representative for your area, visit www.special-lite.com.

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