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Kansas shuts down center for troubled teens

ESBON, Kan. | The state is shutting down a northern Kansas treatment center for troubled adolescents after inspectors found emergency exit doors locked on three occasions.

The White Rock Academy in Esbon on Thursday was ordered closed after state officials twice told operators to remove the locks, which violate the state fire and safety code. The academy has until Monday to make other arrangements for its 24 residents.

The state suspended the center's license, citing a need to protect youths at the facility from physical abuse or threats to their safety.

Officials allege residents were not receiving adequate mental health, drug and alcohol treatment. The order also says one youth was handcuffed throughout his monthlong stay at the center in 2007.

No one representing the academy could be reached for comment Thursday.

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