

CHAPTER III

CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS AND LIFE SAFETY CODES

1. School administrators' responsibilities are major:

The tremendous responsibilities assumed by those in charge of our schools, both in the planning of new buildings and in reconditioning and adding to existing schools, and in their operations, should be fully recognized by the public. School plants today present a complicated problem because of the many added features and activities, such as windowless design, open space design, food handling, auditoriums, gymnasiums, stadiums, vocational training areas, etc. Each added activity brings new problems and different degrees of hazards.

It is of paramount importance that all new public school construction, additions, alterations and renovations of existing building, including materials, fixtures and equipment, conform with all applicable local, state, regional, and national codes.

2. Doors:

a) Interior doors.

Doors from school rooms to corridors shall be not less than 36 inches wide. Doors from classrooms to auxiliary rooms may be 30 inches wide minimum. Double swinging doors for pupil use are not recommended.

Doors to all areas and room shall not have a locking device which can be locked against egress from the area or room.

b) Exterior doors.

All exterior doors in exits and exitways, as well as doors to enclosed stairways shall swing in the direction of egress. Exterior doors at required exits shall be equipped with panic type hardware. Chains, hooks, padlocks, and any other security devices shall not be used. Doors shall be equipped with approved self-closing devices. Minimum width of exterior doors is 36 inches.

Doors with glass areas in hazardous locations shall be fitted with tempered or safety glazed glass properly labeled.

3. Interior door requirements:

- a) Double loaded interior corridors shall be of construction having not less than one-hour fire resistance rating and with all openings therein protected accordingly and conforming with or exceeding requirements of applicable local, state, and national codes. However, such corridor protection is not required when all classrooms served by such corridors have at least one door directly to the outside or to an exterior balcony or corridor as in Section 9-126, 1973 issue Life Safety Code.
- b) Buildings containing 10 or more classrooms shall have main corridors at least ten feet wide net, exclusive of lockers. A six foot wide corridor will be acceptable if it is single loaded and the adjoining classrooms have outside approved exits.

4. Windows for emergency rescue or ventilation:

Except in buildings with complete sprinkler protection, every room or space used for classrooms or other educational purposes or normally subject to student occupancy, unless it has a door leading directly to the outside of building, shall have at least one outside window which can readily be used for emergency rescue or ventilation purposes, and which meets all the following provisions:

- a) Is readily operable from the inside without the use of tools.
- b) Provides clear opening with a minimum dimension of approximately 22 inches and is approximately five square feet in area.
- c) Bottom or window opening is not more than 32 inches above the floor.
- d) Where storm windows, screens, or burglar guards are used, these shall be provided with quick-opening devices which can be readily opened from inside for emergency egress and shall be arranged that when opened will drop to the ground.