

## **Fire Code & Safety Issues** **Simplified and Clear Definitions**

### **Placement of the Room Evacuation Map** (IFC 404.2)

The fire evacuation route map is the only thing that can be placed **within the 18-inch area** around the door. The map should be placed next to the classroom exit door approximately 60 inches off the floor. The map may be placed on either side of the door, but primarily should be on the right side. Other emergency documentation will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This includes such things as the “Classroom Emergency Document Packet”.

### **Placement of Combustible Material on the Classroom Door**

Classroom exit doors **cannot** have paper, teaching aids, or decorations attached to either side of the door.

Glass panels, in a classroom door, cannot be covered or have the view into the room obstructed. This includes paper, decorations, etc. The only exception is during an emergency lockdown drill or incident.

### **Classroom Artwork and Teaching Material** (IFC 801-808, NFPA 101 & 701)

If a school is **protected throughout** by an automatic fire sprinkler system wall displays of child art and teaching aids that are attached to the wall surface cannot cover more than **50%** of that wall surface. Artwork should never be from floor to ceiling and should be broken up in areas.

If a school is **not protected throughout** by an automatic fire sprinkler system wall displays of child art and teaching aids that are attached to the wall surface cannot cover more than **20%** of that wall surface.

### **Three Dimensional Artwork** (IFC 801-808, NFPA 101 & 701)

Dimensional art work is not allowed in schools, The amount of paper used to create the art scrunch and twisted paper creates air channels into the art and increases the fire load. This will include trees, vines and other objects made out of paper. Make sure all paper is flat and meets the 50 or 20% rule.

### **Exit Corridor / Hallway Artwork and Teaching Materials** (IFC 807.4.3.2)

Hallways are considered emergency egress areas and we recommend that artwork in hallways be limited to bulletin boards only. Artwork and teaching materials are limited in corridors to not more than 20% of the wall area.

### **Hanging Teaching Aids, Child Prepared Art work, etc. from the Ceiling** ( IFC 703.3)

Do not attach anything to a light fixture, fire alarm sensors, fire strobe lamps, sprinkler heads, or overhead pipe runs. Proper T-grid hangers are required to keep the integrity of the plenum rated ceiling.

### **Wires Strung in or Across the Classroom**

Wire, rope, string, lights or the like, are not to be suspended across a classroom. This includes diagonal runs, corner to corner, or runs in the center of a classroom. Requirement is from State Risk and Insurance.

**Draperies, Curtains and other fabrics:** (NFP 701)

Draperies, curtains, and other similar loosely hanging furnishings and decorations are not allowed, Blinds can be installed as needed and have to meet specific performance criteria.

**Storage Detachments from the Ceiling** (IFC 315.2.1)

All storage in the classroom or in storage areas cannot be closer than 24 inches to the ceiling in a non-fire suppressed building.

If the building/ room has a fire suppression system the storage must be no closer than 18 inches.

**Classroom Exit Door Clearances** (IFC 1003)

All exit doors in a classroom, whether to the outside of the school building or into a corridor hall way, must be kept clear of any obstructions. There must be a **minimum of 36 inches of clearance**, in a semi circle shape, at each door to allow for a quick and safe exit from the room.

**Clearance at Fire Alarm Pull Stations**

Do not obstruct access to and visual contact with the fire alarm pull station. There must be a **minimum of 36 inches of clearance**, in a semi circle shape, from the pull station.

**Clearance at Electrical Panels**

Do not obstruct access to and visual contact with the electrical panel. There must be a **minimum of 36 inches of clearance**, in a semi circle shape, from the electrical panel.

**Clearance at Fire Extinguisher Locations**

Do not obstruct access to and visual contact with the fire extinguisher. There must be a **minimum of 36 inches of clearance around** the fire extinguisher.

**Use of Extension Cords/Surge Protectors**

Extension cords may not be used as a permanent source of power. Surge protectors are permitted but cannot be “piggy-backed” one to another. They must be UL listed and 3 pronged with a ground. Caution must be taken to ensure that the use of extension cords and surge protectors, do not cause additional safety issues, such as trip hazards.

**Storage in Corridors and Lobbies** (IFC 807.4)

Clothing and personal effects shall not be stored in corridors and lobbies of educational facilities.

**Candles/ Plug-in type Air Fresheners or warmers**(Insurance policy)

Candles, Candle warmers or the burning of incense are not allowed in any state owned building.

**Decorating for Holidays, Special Events, etc.**

All decorations and the placement of decorations must meet the Artwork and Teaching Material calculations as well as any other applicable fire codes. (Live Christmas Trees, live wreaths, are not allowed in JSD buildings). Christmas trees need to be located in places that do not block or impede egress.

**Furniture for the Classroom**

Upholstered furniture (Fabric of any kind) are not allowed. Over stuffed couches and chairs are not allowed. Furniture should be of a commercial vinyl or leather grade for cleaning and disinfecting and are permitted in the office area, faculty rooms, and secondary media centers only.

**Cooking in the Classroom**

Cooking in the classroom is prohibited unless that classroom was designed for that purpose. All issues will be addressed and approved by the Utah Fire Prevention Bureau, as well as Risk Management on a case by case basis and approval must be granted at the beginning of each school year.

**Household Appliances**

Any household appliances should be for personal use only. If it is being used in our facilities, it should be commercial grade. Mini fridges, toaster ovens, coffee pots, microwaves, etc. are not be in classrooms. These types of appliances are allowed in breakrooms, teacher workrooms, and collaboration rooms, areas where children are not allowed unless accompanied by an adult.

**Electrical/ Elevator Equipment and Mechanical Rooms** (IFC 315.2.3.2 & 315.2.3.4)

Storage is not allowed.

**Boiler Rooms** (IFC 315.2 3)

Combustible materials shall be maintained at least 36 inches from any fuel fired equipment.

**Portable Heaters** (IFC 603.4)

Portable 120V electrical heating appliances are allowed, as long as they have the following: must have a guard over the heating element. Must be UL listed, Must have automatic shut down if tipped over, and must be turned off when not monitored.

Portable unvented fuel-fired heating appliances are **NOT ALLOWED**.

State School Board, State Risk and AIG Insurance has asked to pay attention to cluttered classrooms and to remember our House Cleaning. Please keep classrooms clean and orderly to ensure easy evacuation if needed. Personal items should be kept at home. Piles of books or papers, etc. should be removed.

All book shelves taller than 4 feet must be attached to the wall to prevent tipping over.

Televisions purchased by the district should be mounted to the wall or TV cart. Personal audio/ video items should remain at home.

Any questions please contact Jeff Beesley, Risk Management Coordinator.  
801-567-8876