



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHITECT

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to advise that the Department of Education used to have guidelines with regard to *Rules, Regulations and Minimum Standards Addressing School Construction, Expansion and Renovation in Tennessee*, but did away with them in 1992. Now, all that is required is handicapped accessibility, which is law.

The Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance is, technically, the State Fire Marshal in Tennessee who is empowered to make regulations, adopt codes and enforce them. The law delegates similar authority to local governments who have adopted the equivalent of the State Code and is capable of enforcing it and is found to be doing so. The State Architect's jurisdiction is over all *State*-owned buildings.

If you are inquiring about building or renovating a school facility, you should retain a licensed designer to develop and stamp your plans before the State Fire Marshal's Office reviews them. They will tell you about educational occupancy and some other educational requirements, such as windows, but nothing that says so many square feet or so many acres per student.

School facilities that house school-administered infant/toddler, preschool or before and after school programs will have applicable Rules, Regulations and Minimum Standards which are promulgated by the Tennessee Board of Education and may be obtained from the TN Secretary of State at www.tn.gov/sos/rules. Those chapters include Section 0520-12-01 *Standards for Child Care and School-Age Child Care Programs*, and Section 0520-12-1-12, *Physical Facilities*.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Heimbach, Jr. AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
State Architect

PLH/gm