

## Chapter 61. School Districts

### Subchapter CC. Commissioner's Rules Concerning School Facilities

#### §61.1033. School Facilities Standards for Construction before January 1, 2004.

- (a) Definitions and procedures. The following words, terms, and procedures, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.
- (1) Educational program--A written document that includes the following information:
    - (A) a summary of the school district's educational philosophy, mission, and goals; and
    - (B) a description of the general nature of the district's instructional program in accordance with §74.1 of this title (relating to Essential and Knowledge and Skills).
  - (2) Educational specifications--Educational specifications for a proposed new school facility or major space renovation include a description of the proposed project, expressing the range of issues and alternatives. The following information should be included in the educational specifications:
    - (A) the instructional programs, grade configuration, and type of facility;
    - (B) number of students;
    - (C) a list of any specialized classrooms or major support areas, noninstructional support areas, or external activity spaces;
    - (D) estimated size of facility;
    - (E) estimated budget for the facility project;
    - (F) school administrative organization; and
    - (G) hours of operation that include the instructional day, extracurricular activities, and any public access or use.
  - (3) Instructional space--General classrooms, specialized classrooms, and major support areas.
  - (4) Library--Library will include the following minimum requirements:

- (c) Certification of design and construction.
  - (1) In this section, the word "certify" indicates that the architect or engineer has reviewed the standards contained in this chapter and used the best professional judgment and reasonable care consistent with the practice of architecture or engineering in the State of Texas in executing the construction documents. The architect or engineer also certifies that these documents conform to the provisions of this section, except as indicated on the certification.
  - (2) The school district shall notify and obligate the architect or engineer to provide the required certification. The architect's or engineer's signature and seal on the construction documents shall certify compliance.
  - (3) To ensure that facilities have been designed and constructed according to the provisions of this section, each of the involved parties shall execute responsibilities as follows.
    - (A) The school district shall provide the architect or engineer the long-range school facility plan and/or educational specifications approved by the board of trustees as required by this subchapter, and building code specifications for the facility.
    - (B) The architect or engineer shall perform a building code search under applicable regulations that may influence the project, and shall certify and approve

- (ii) Science lecture/lab shall have a minimum of 41 square feet per pupil or 900 square feet per room at the elementary school level; 50 square feet per pupil or 1,000 square feet per room at the middle school level; and 50 square feet per pupil or 1,200 square feet per room at the high school level. A science lecture/lab is a classroom where both lecture and lab work occur in the same room and during the same class period.
- (C) Major support areas.
  - (i) Primary gymnasiums or physical education space, if required by the district's educational program, shall have a minimum of 3,000 square feet at the elementary school level; 4,800 square feet at the middle school level; and 7,500 square feet at the high school level.
  - (ii) Libraries shall have a minimum of 3.0 square feet times the planned student capacity of the school. The minimum size of any elementary school library shall be 1,400 square feet. The minimum size of any middle school library shall be 2,100 square feet. The minimum size of any high school library shall be 2,800 square feet.
- (3) Other space requirements should be developed from school district design criteria as required to meet educational program needs.
- (e) Educational adequacy. A proposed new school facility or major space renovation of an existing school facility meets the conditions of educational adequacy if the design of the proposed project is based on the requirements of the school district's educational program and the student population that it serves.
- (f) Construction quality.
  - (1) Districts with existing building codes. A school district located in an area that has adopted local building codes shall comply with those codes (including fire and mechanical, electrician di