

The board is committed to designing new and renovated facilities in a manner that maximizes the use of space, provides flexibility for the academic program, conserves environmental resources and produces structurally sound and safe buildings. All school buildings should be designed to create safe, orderly and inviting learning environments where students can succeed. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for design of school facilities, additions, and renovations.

The basic organization of school facilities shall be a feeder pattern of elementary, K5; middle, 6-8; and high school, 9-12. Nothing in this policy is intended to preclude facilities being used for schools organized with grade levels that vary from this basic organization. Other special purpose schools such as Wolfe School, South Providence or Central Academy of Technology and Arts may serve all or part of these feeder pattern attendance zones.

The permanent buildings on a high school site shall not exceed core capacity¹ of cafeteria, media center, hallways, and locker space to accommodate 2200 students. The high school prototype design shall include sufficient individual teacher office/conference space to schedule all instructional space for maximum efficiency.² As existing high schools are renovated or expanded, the design shall include, as feasible:

- **Individual teacher offices/conference space that provide a professional environment for teachers**
- **Flexibility to organize around academies, houses, or other more personalized environment for students.**

The permanent buildings on a middle school site shall not exceed core capacity of 1600 students. The prototype design and any expansions and/or renovations (as feasible) must have the flexibility to organize around academies, houses, or other more personalized environment for students.

The permanent buildings on an elementary school site shall not exceed core capacity of 1000 students. The prototype design and any expansions and/or renovations (as feasible) must have the flexibility to organize around academies, houses, or other more personalized environment for students.

The superintendent is responsible for the design of facilities that have been identified in the long-range facility needs plan and have been approved for funding.

¹ Core capacity is defined as the number of students the schools' general spaces (i.e. cafeterias, restrooms, gymnasiums, hallways, etc.) can accommodate.

(All instructional space can be used for instruction during all class periods thus providing a "high efficiency capacity" of up to 2200 students for a high school on a four period block schedule.)

The superintendent will ensure that all legal requirements are met in the design of new or renovated buildings. The superintendent may utilize services of outside professionals, including architects and other consultants, in the facility design and construction. Any contract for professional services related to facility design must be reviewed by the board attorney and approved by the board.

The superintendent will report periodically to the board on the development of facility plans. The superintendent also will report on the State Board’s review of facility plans conducted pursuant to G.S. 115C-521(c) and will specifically address any concerns noted by the State Board. The board will give final approval of facility plans before investing money into new buildings or renovations.

LEGAL REF.: NCGS 115C-521
NCGS 115C-74
NCGS 115C-75
NCGS Chapter 133, Articles 1 and 3
29 U.S.C. §794(b); 34 C.F.R. pt. 104 (subpt. C); 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.; 28 C.F.R. pt. 35 (subpt. D);
State Board of Education, North Carolina Public School
Facilities Guidelines; Safe Schools Facility Planner

CROSS REF.: Board Policy 4-13, School Assignment

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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