

School Design and Seismic Upgrade Committee Recommendations for Policy on Elementary School Design

That school design features be determined by requirements for:

- seismic safety
- security of the students and staff and VSB emergency procedures
- student supervision and safety concerns including that there be a minimal number of floor-to-ceiling glass walls.
- delivery of the curriculum
- fostering of a spirit of community within the whole school

That all teaching areas include

- efficient, individually manageable temperature controls for heat and cold
- efficient, individually manageable lighting controls with provision for dimming
- blinds (for security and projection needs)
- telephones to the inside and outside
- electrical outlets which are accessible and thoughtfully positioned and more numerous than the minimum provided for by electrical code
- lockable storage closets for technology with electrical power capacity for charging multiple devices, and for storage of valuables
- windows that open
- acoustic design for noise reduction
- a sink
- display space for student work
- two accessible exits

That the following teaching spaces be built or renovated to meet the following criteria:

Classrooms:

Classrooms shall be the same size, minimum 84m², with kindergarten classrooms being a minimum of 110m².

School library:

The school library shall be at least 168m² for schools with a nominal capacity up to 100 students*, with an additional 0.8m² for each student over 100.

The library in a one-language school shall have wall-mounted shelving measuring a minimum of 120 linear metres for schools with a nominal capacity up to 100 students, with an additional 0.3 linear metres provided for each student over 100.

The library in a two-language school shall have wall-mounted shelving measuring a minimum of 140 linear metres for schools with a nominal capacity up to 100 students, with an additional 0.4 linear metres provided for each student over 100.

The library shall have specialized shelving to house picture books.

The library shelving shall be a maximum of 1.65m high and a minimum of 15cm from the floor, with a minimum of 33cm between each shelf.

The circulation desk shall be efficient and ergonomically designed.

There shall be a lockable, soundproof library office space with floor-to-ceiling walls.

Music room:

Each school shall have a music room which is specially placed and specially soundproofed, with adequate storage for musical instruments.

***nominal capacity as defined in the Ministry of Education Area Standards document Section 2.2.1.**

Fine arts room:

Each school shall have a fine arts room with adequate storage for equipment and a sink with multiple faucets suitable for use by 6 or more students at a time.

Gymnasium:

Each school shall have a full-size gymnasium with adequate storage for all sports equipment.

There shall be consideration given to audio and projection needs, including a sound system and the ability to darken the gym.

Performance area:

Each school shall have a performance area for music and drama, such as a gym stage, a large multi-purpose room, or an amphitheatre.

Special education and specialist rooms:

Each school shall have at least one learning assistance room, one ELL room, and one general special education room, each with an area of at least 40m², as well as a room for the teacher psychologist, the teacher counselor, and the speech and language pathologist.

That the following spaces be built or renovated to meet the following criteria;

Passageways:

Each school shall have stairways and hallways which:

- are sufficiently wide to allow safe and easy passage for large numbers of people going in opposing directions
- have safe, adequately-sized stair landings
- have display space for student work

Staffroom:

Each school shall have a staffroom of at least 84m², equipped with kitchen facilities, adult washrooms, and shower facilities.

Washrooms:

There shall be washrooms to accommodate the maximum possible number of students and adults in the building. Student washrooms have toilets, urinals and sinks placed at the correct height for use by students K to 7.

Washrooms for kindergarten, primary, and special needs classrooms shall be provided in the classroom or building in which the classroom is located.

Storage:

There shall be space for storage for:

- projector/laptop/tablet carts, with the ability for charging in storage
- primary book collections
- novel sets
- textbooks
- science equipment
- art supplies
- stationery and large rolls of paper