

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (SDE)
BUREAU OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (BFU)

GENERAL CODE OVERVIEW

CURRENT FIRE SAFETY CODE

Section 29-292-10e;

(a) The provisions of Part I, Part II and Part V of this code shall apply to all occupancies and uses located within a building or structure.

(b) The provisions of Part III of this code shall apply to: (1) The design and construction of new buildings and structures, and (2) Buildings undergoing repairs, alterations and additions, and (3) Buildings and structures undergoing a change of occupancy or use as specified in section 29-292-11e of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. (4) For existing occupancies subject to an abatement order for violations of Part IV of this code, only new fire protection, electrical and mechanical system work shall be subject to the requirements of Part III.

(c) The provisions of Part IV of this code shall only apply to existing occupancies and uses located within existing buildings and structures.

CURRENT BUILDING CODE

Section 101.2. The provisions of this code shall apply to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal and demolition of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures. (see exception for existing buildings option).

Note that under Section 102.2, the provisions of this code shall not be deemed to nullify any provisions of local, state or federal law.

FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY LAWS

Program accessibility is required in an existing designated school (an existing building is one where the groundbreaking was before June 3, 1977). The district may comply through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of classes or other services to accessible buildings, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of health, welfare, or other social services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities in conformance with the requirements of 34 C.F.R. Section 104.23, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities accessible to handicapped persons.

If the groundbreaking was after June 3, 1977, federal law defines it as a new building and it should have been constructed to the appropriate code at the time. The current state building code and federal accessibility regulations require that all new work be accessible to persons with disabilities. **Note that state codes or waivers do not take precedence over federal requirements.**

Federal law required districts to complete a **self-evaluation** and **transition plan**. Included in this plan is a derived percentage of designated buildings. If this has not been done, SDE recommends that a minimum of 50 percent of an LEA's schools of each type be designated accessible for persons with disabilities, i.e., complete accessible routes and programs per Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The **deadline for compliance** with Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was **June 3, 1980**.

The **deadline for compliance** with the Americans with Disabilities Act was **January 26, 1995**.

Regardless of the effective dates, all programs shall be accessible to, and usable by persons with disabilities.

FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY LAWS (cont.)

Refer to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities: Building Elements Designed for children's use; Final Rule (Federal Register January 13, 1998) for **children's dimensions and anthropometrics** (concentrating on the "Primary User Group" of the element).

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Miscellaneous equipment

Furnishings

Professional licensing.

Public playground regulations

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Playground equipment (refer to Section 9 of this manual).

Guidelines and recommendations for retrofitting bleachers.

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

A fire evacuation plan for each floor (posted in the corridors) of each school shall be established for all students, staff, and general public in conjunction with and approved by the local fire marshal. The fire evacuation plan must include provisions for persons with disabilities and be in concert with the required "Public Entities' Policies and Procedures to Evacuate" (persons with disabilities). Review your plan with the local authorities.

SEE SECTIONS 3 and 6 for specific requirements for the:

Department of Public Safety (Fire Code and Building Code)

Department of Environmental Protection

Department of Public Health

Department of Transportation (State Traffic Commission)

Department of Labor

Federal Accessibility Laws