

Sec. 2-3.12. School building code.

(a) To prepare for school boards with the advice of the Department of Public Health, the Capital Development Board, and the State Fire Marshal a school building code that will conserve the health and safety and general welfare of the pupils and school personnel and others who use public school facilities.

(b) Within 2 years after September 23, 1983, and **every 10 years** thereafter, or at such other times as the State Board of Education deems necessary or the regional superintendent so orders, each school board subject to the provisions of this Section shall again survey its school buildings and effectuate any recommendations in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.

(1) **An architect or engineer** licensed in the State of Illinois is required to conduct the surveys under the provisions of this Section and **shall make a report of the findings of the survey titled "safety survey report" to the school board.**

(2) **The school board shall approve the safety survey report**, including any recommendations to effectuate compliance with the code, and submit it to the Regional Superintendent.

(3) The Regional Superintendent shall render a decision regarding approval or denial and submit the safety survey report to the State Superintendent of Education.

(4) The State Superintendent of Education shall approve or deny the report including recommendations to effectuate compliance with the code and, if approved, issue a certificate of approval.

(5) Upon receipt of the certificate of approval, the Regional Superintendent shall issue an order to effect any approved recommendations included in the report. **The report shall meet all of the following requirements:**

(A) **Items in the report shall be prioritized.**

(B) **Urgent items shall be considered as those items related to life safety problems that present an immediate hazard to the safety of students.**

(C) **Required items** shall be considered as those items that **are necessary for a safe environment** but present less of an immediate hazard to the safety of students.

(D) **Urgent and required items shall reference a specific rule in the code** authorized by this Section that is currently being violated or will be violated within the next 12 months if the violation is not remedied.

(6) **The school board** of each district so surveyed and receiving a report of needed recommendations to be made to maintain standards of safety and health of the pupils enrolled **shall effectuate the correction of urgent items as soon as achievable to ensure the safety of the students**, but in no case more than one year after the date of the State Superintendent of Education's approval of the recommendation.

(7) **Required items shall be corrected in a timely manner, but in no case more than 5 years from the date of the State Superintendent of Education's approval of the recommendation.**

(8) Once each year the school board shall submit a report of progress on completion of any recommendations to effectuate compliance with the code.

(c) As soon as practicable, but not later than 2 years after January 1, 1993, the State Board of Education shall combine the document known as "Efficient and Adequate Standards for the Construction of Schools" with the document known as "Building Specifications for Health and Safety in

Public Schools" together with any modifications or additions that may be deemed necessary. The combined document shall be known as the "Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools" and shall be the governing code for all facilities that house public school students or are otherwise used for public school purposes, whether such facilities are permanent or temporary and whether they are owned, leased, rented, or otherwise used by the district. Facilities owned by a school district but that are not used to house public school students or are not used for public school purposes shall be governed by separate provisions within the code authorized by this Section.

(d) The 10 year survey cycle specified in this Section shall continue to apply based upon the standards contained in the "Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools", which shall specify building standards for buildings that are constructed prior to January 1, 1993 and for buildings that are constructed after that date.

(e) The "Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools" shall be the governing code for public schools; however, the provisions of this Section shall not preclude inspection of school premises and buildings pursuant to Section 9 of the Fire Investigation Act, provided that the provisions of the "Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools", or such predecessor document authorized by this Section as may be applicable are used, and provided that those inspections are coordinated with the Regional Superintendent having jurisdiction over the public school facility.

(e-5) After the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly, all new school building construction governed by the "Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools" must include in its design and construction a storm shelter that meets the minimum requirements of the ICC/NSSA Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters (ICC-500), published jointly by the International Code Council and the National Storm Shelter Association. Nothing in this subsection (e-5) precludes the design engineers, architects, or school district from applying a higher life safety standard than the ICC-500 for storm shelters.

(f) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit the State Fire Marshal or a qualified fire official to whom the State Fire Marshal has delegated his or her authority from conducting a fire safety check in a public school.

(g) The Regional Superintendent shall address any violations that are not corrected in a timely manner pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 3-14.21 of this Code.

(h) Any agency having jurisdiction beyond the scope of the applicable document authorized by this Section may issue a lawful order to a school board to effectuate recommendations, and the school board receiving the order shall certify to the Regional Superintendent and the State Superintendent of Education when it has complied with the order.

(i) The State Board of Education is authorized to adopt any rules that are necessary relating to the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Section.

(j) The code authorized by this Section shall apply only to those school districts having a population of less than 500,000 inhabitants.

(k) In this Section, a "qualified fire official" means an individual that meets the requirements of rules adopted by the State Fire Marshal in cooperation with the State Board of Education to administer this Section. These rules shall be based on recommendations made by the task force established under Section 2-3.137 of this Code.

(Source: P.A. 98-883, eff. 1-1-15.)