

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The School Committee believes that any educational program is influenced greatly by the environment in which its functions. The development of a quality educational program and school facilities that help to implement the program must go hand in hand.

Therefore, it is the Committee's goal to provide the facilities needed for the number of students in the school system, and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the educational program.

In planning facilities, the Committee recognizes that capital outlay funds are limited, and that priorities must be established to make the best use of the school building dollar. The Committee's first objective will be to develop a plan that eliminates overcrowding and minimizes the need for extended day programs and double sessions. Whenever possible, the cultural as well as educational needs of the community will be considered in planning facility expansions.

Architects retained by the Committee are expected to plan for simplicity of design; sound economics, including low long-range maintenance costs and efficiency in energy needs; low insurance rates; high educational use; and flexibility.

LEGAL REF.: 963 CMR 2.00

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Facilities

- (1) Every new school which is to be constructed and every addition to an existing school or program for modernization of an existing school shall be designed or planned so as to ensure that the educational opportunities to be offered within that school following its construction, expansion or reconstruction will be available equally to all students thereof without regard to the race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, disability, homelessness, or national origin of any such student.
- (2) The goal of each school shall be to provide males and females with equal facilities and conveniences within a school which are separated for reasons of privacy, e.g. showers, locker rooms, changing rooms, toilets and lavatories. Any school to be constructed shall make such provision and any plan for the expansion or modernization of an existing school shall include whatever provision is necessary in order to achieve compliance with 603 CMR 26.07.

LEGAL REF.: 963 CMR 2.00

FACILITIES PLANNING

School Building Committee

The town manager creates a school building committee for specific building projects. These committees act as the administrative authority for the projects, subject to approval of various actions by the School Committee and town.

The school building committee has the following responsibilities:

1. To study and make recommendations to the town with respect to school building needs.
2. To review thoroughly with the Superintendent and the School Committee the educational requirements in relation to school buildings.
3. To review previous studies and initiate needed studies with or without consultative assistance.
4. To employ the services of architects and cost estimators and such other professional assistance as it may deem necessary.

Staff Planning

Arrangements will be made by the Superintendent, working through Principals, for the school staff to contribute in the planning of new school buildings. Teachers will be given the opportunity to submit suggestions for possible inclusion in the educational specifications.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 70B
Massachusetts School Building Authority, Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2004, 963
CMR 2.00

NOTE: The sample policy above incorporates requirements of the town's charter in the policy. The content of a local School Committee's policy in this area should, of course, be checked against its town or city charter and appropriate references added. Regional school districts should refer to and cite M.G.L. 71:16 at this code.

NAMING SCHOOL FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

Naming is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a name for school buildings, school facilities, or school grounds. To this end, the Committee feels that is appropriate to use names that denote physical locations, geographic areas, or significant national or local events.

The Superintendent will present any proposed names for buildings, facilities, or grounds to the School Committee. At least one week after the Superintendent presents a proposal and one week prior to voting on a proposed name, the School Committee shall hold a public hearing to provide an opportunity for community discussion and input. Because school buildings are owned by the Town, the Board of Selectmen must approve the naming of school facilities and grounds.