

School Facility Standards/ Specific Requirements

The School Facilities Standards for Construction §61.1036 contains several specific requirements that a school district must follow.

The school district shall provide the architect:

- the educational program and educational specifications approved by the board of trustees and
- building code specifications for the facility.
- If a school district has a long-range school facility plan, it shall also be provided.

School districts that do not have personnel on staff shall utilize the services of a consultant to assist in the development of the educational specifications. The district shall allow for input from school staff.

The school district shall obligate the architect to provide the required certification. The architect's or engineer's signature and seal on the construction documents shall certify compliance.

When construction is completed, the school district shall certify that the facility conforms to the design requirements specified. The school district will retain this form in their files indefinitely.

A school district shall provide instructional space required by the educational specifications using the standard for square feet per room. School districts should consider providing extra area for classroom equipment.

The school district shall provide the architect:

- expected class sizes for the facilities,
- list of chemicals to be used in the science laboratories &
- number of computers anticipated in the library.

A school district shall consider the School Library Standards and Guidelines (§33.021) when developing library services.

A school district located in an area that has adopted local construction codes shall comply with those codes. The school district is not required to seek additional plan review of school facilities projects other than what is required by the local building authority.

For school facilities projects subject to these standards, fire alarm systems shall be provided.

School districts should consider providing automatic fire sprinkler systems.

A school district located in an area that has not adopted building codes shall adopt and use the latest edition of the family of International Codes or those adopted by a nearby municipality. An independent third party shall review the plans for compliance with the the adopted building code. An independent third party should perform inspections during the construction for compliance with the adopted building code.

An adequate technology, electrical, and communications infrastructure shall be provided.

School districts should consider the use of designs, methods, and materials that will reduce the potential for indoor air quality problems.

School district facilities shall comply with the "Texas Accessibility Standards" & ADA.