

Special Exiting Provisions for Younger Students in School Buildings

Background

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, §123B.51, subdivision 7, the 2020 Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) Section 1001.3 requires school buildings used by younger students (second grade and below) to comply with the special exiting and fire protection requirements as described in Minnesota Building Code (MBC) Section 429.2. A matrix is provided on pages two and three to assist in the application of these provisions.

2020 MBC Sections 429.2. Use of school buildings by lower grades

429.2.1 School buildings equipped with approved automatic fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems. Rooms used by preschool, kindergarten, and first- and second-grade students for classrooms, latchkey, day care, early childhood family education, teen parent, or other programs conducted in the building may be located on any floor level below the fourth story if the following conditions exist:

1. The building is protected throughout with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system.
2. The building is protected throughout with an approved automatic fire alarm system having automatic smoke detection devices installed throughout the exit system within every room or area used for purposes other than a classroom or office.

429.2.2 School buildings equipped with either an approved automatic fire sprinkler system or a fire alarm system. Rooms shall be located on the story of exit discharge when used for the purposes of classroom, latchkey, day care, early childhood education, teen parent, or other programs conducted in the building by preschool, kindergarten, or first-grade students. Rooms shall be located on the story of exit discharge or one story above when used for any purpose by second grade students.

Rooms occupied by preschool, kindergarten, first- or second-grade students, when used for the programs described in this section, may be located on floor levels other than those designated above if one of the following conditions is met:

1. An approved automatic fire sprinkler system is provided throughout the building and the use of the affected room or space is limited to one grade level at a time and exiting is provided from the room or space that is independent from the exiting system used by students above second grade.
2. An approved automatic fire alarm system is installed throughout the building consisting of automatic smoke detection installed throughout the exit system and within all rooms and areas other than classroom and office areas, and the use of the affected room or space is limited to one grade level at a time, and exiting is provided from the room or space that is independent from the exiting system used by students above second grade.



Accessory Use Areas: Gyms/Cafeteria/Auditoriums

ACCESSORY USE AREA LOCATION & CONDITIONS	PRE	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
LED - no fire protection	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
1 story above LED (2nd story) - no fire protection	np	np	np	np	ok	ok	ok	ok
1 story above LED (2nd story) - auto sprinkler or auto fire alarm	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
1 story below LED (basement) - no fire protection	np	np	np	np	ok	ok	ok	ok
1 story below LED (basement) - auto sprinklers or auto fire alarm	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok

ok = permitted / np = not permitted / LED = level of exit discharge