

Annual Public School Inspections



Illinois
State Board of
Education

John Runge



Dave Demler at ROE #26



*OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS
STATE FIRE MARSHAL*

Cathy Stashak
Jeff Rath

Public School Inspection Program

This program provides:

- Reminders, updates, and changes made to the public school inspection program in general,
- Specific changes to the Health and Life Safety Glossary and Checklists.
- Recap of requirements related to checklist submittal
- Refresher training on using Mobile Eyes

Tier 1 vs. Tier 2 Inspectors



Certificates of Completion

Tier 2 students should check our QFO list that is posted on our website and anybody with an (*) next to their name is able to act as a “mentor” for an inspector that is shadowing to become a QFO.

Policy

Inspections do not have to be performed with ROE staff, but the intent of this program is to be collaborative. So whenever possible the best approach is to work with the local ROE.

EXCEPT FOR COOK COUNTY, the ROE **must be notified** prior to starting inspections

ROE = Regional Office of Education

Inspections Must Be Completed Either by Local or OSFM

If the local fire department that has fire jurisdiction over the school(s) does not have the staffing or expertise to perform these inspections, OSFM inspectors will perform this inspection. This is a mandatory inspection so if the local fire department decides they cannot perform these inspections anymore, please, please, please let the OSFM know. The schools will be transferred to OSFM inspection scheduling.

Adopted Codes

Only the codes adopted by ISBE are the codes that can be referenced. These rules apply to all buildings owned or leased by the public school district, whether student occupied or not.

Codes adopted by the local fire agency or OSFM are not applicable within public schools in Illinois (except for CPS, which must comply with Chicago codes).

Adopted Codes

See matrix in front of the Glossary

Part 185 – for schools approved for design before July 1, 1965

Part 175 – for schools approved for design after July 1, 1965 but before March 24, 1995.

Adopted Codes

Part 180 (BOCA 1993) – for schools approved for design on or after March 24, 1995 but before July 6, 1998

BOCA 1993 Fire Prevention and Property Maintenance Codes can be retroactive to all the older schools unless Parts 175 or 185 have something more stringent

Adopted Codes

Part 180 (BOCA 1996) – for schools approved for design on or after July 6, 1998 but before October 3, 2005

Part 180 (ICC 2003) – for schools approved for design on or after October 3, 2005 but before September 25, 2007

Adopted Codes

Part 180 (ICC 2006) – for schools approved for design on or after September 25, 2007 but before January 1, 2010

Part 180 (ICC 2009) – for schools approved for design on or after January 1, 2010 but before July 1, 2016

Part 180 (ICC 2015) – for schools approved for design on or after July 1, 2016 but before January 1, 2025.

Part 180 (ICC 2024) – for schools approved for design on or after January 1, 2025.

Timeline for Returning Inspection Reports

Inspection reports must be returned to the ROE/ISC and to OSFM within **15 calendar days** of the inspection.

These are independent and separate submittals. Submitting to OSFM on the portal does NOT automatically send the report to the ROE.

NEW: In addition to sending your inspection report to OSFM you must also submit proof that you sent you inspection to the ROE/ISC to OSFM.

Cook County Reports

For all counties except Cook, inspection reports must NOT be left at the school OR with the school district

Again, except for schools located in Cook County

For public schools in **Cook County only**, within **15** calendar days make sure to:

- Leave a copy of your report at the school
- Submit a copy of your report to the assigned Cook County Intermediate Service Center
- Submit a copy to OSFM

Prepare Your Own Report

If you are walking with ROE staff during this inspection, you must write up your own independent report! You cannot co-sign the ROE's written report. There must be a separate report from you, the inspector, sent to the ROE and sent to OSFM.

Use Current and Approved Checklist

YOU MUST USE AN UPDATED APPROVED INSPECTION FORM THAT IS DISCUSSED IN THIS CLASS WHEN YOU PERFORM THESE INSPECTIONS.

You are not permitted to use your own fire department inspection forms!

Changes to the Glossary

Effective January 1, 2025, the 2024 edition of the I-Codes will be used for new construction and certain levels of remodeling.

Because of this addition, a new Appendix R was created that identifies only the I-Code fire rated separations for the I-Codes adopted by ISBE (2003, 2006, 2009, 2015, 2024).

The code edition matrix in the front of the glossary was updated to reflect this change.

Changes to the Glossary

6. Emergency Lighting Equipment and Illuminated Exit Signs (IFC24/15: 1008; IFC15: 1013; IFC09/06/03: 1006; IFC09/06/03 1011; BOCA-F 610.1; BOCA-F: 610.2)

Rooms and spaces requiring two means of egress shall be equipped with emergency lighting, including assembly areas. In all buildings, rooms or spaces required to have more than one exit or exit access, all required means of egress shall be indicated with approved signs reading “Exit” visible from the exit access and, where necessary, supplemented by directional signs in the exit access corridors indicating the direction and way of egress. All “exit” signs shall be located at exit doors or exit access areas, so as to be readily visible. Sign placement shall be such that any point in the exit access shall not be more than 100 feet from the nearest visible sign. Main exterior exit doors which are obviously and clearly identifiable as exits are not required to have “Exit” signs where approved. Approved self-luminous signs are permitted to be installed in schools. UL 924 is the appropriate standard to reference for internally illuminated, self-luminous, and photoluminous exit signs. **NEW: IBC 2024 only: A graphical symbol exit sign that includes the “running man symbol and arrow” in accordance with UL 924 is also permitted to be used.**

Changes to the Glossary

6. Emergency Lighting Equipment and Illuminated Exit Signs (IFC24/15: 1008; IFC15: 1013; IFC09/06/03: 1006; IFC09/06/03 1011; BOCA-F 610.1; BOCA-F: 610.2)

NEW: IBC 2024 only: A graphical symbol exit sign that includes the “running man symbol and arrow” in accordance with UL 924 is also permitted to be used.



Changes to the Glossary

15. Functional Standpipe Systems and Private Fire Hydrants (225 ILCS 317/10; IFC: 901.6; BOCA-F: 506.1)

Where installed, proof of required maintenance and testing shall be provided to inspector. Inspection shall be performed annually on pipe and hoses and appropriately tagged. Inspection of standpipes that serve as supply for sprinkler systems shall be inspected and tested by a contractor licensed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. **Private fire hydrant systems shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with the NFPA 25.**

Reference for NFPA 25 added to Appendix A. Note: This does not apply to fire hydrants owned by a municipality or a water district.

Changes to the Glossary

28. Panic Hardware (IBC15 1010.1.10, IBC24 1010.2.8)

Panic hardware shall immediately release the lock on any door and not be obstructed in any fashion except that electromagnetic locks are permitted on doors with panic hardware in accordance with Section 1010.1.9.9 which requires, among other things, that upon operation of the panic hardware the electromagnetic lock is released allowing immediate egress. Electromagnetic locks are not the same as delayed-egress locking. There are separate requirements for delayed-egress locking.

Changes to the Glossary

~~37. Toxic Art Supplies (105 ILCS 135)~~

~~No toxic art supplies are to be used by K through 6th grade students. Toxic art supplies to be used by 7th through 12th grade students are subject to the requirements imposed by 105 ILCS 135.~~

Toxic art supplies have been removed from the Glossary and checklist

Changes to the Glossary

65. Structures Underneath Bleachers and Grandstands-

NEW IBC24 only: Where spaces under grandstands or bleachers are used for purposes other than ticket booths less than 100 ft², toilet rooms, **or accessory areas 1,000 ft² or less**; such spaces shall be separated by fire barriers with not less than 1-hour fire-rated construction.

Changes to the Glossary

102. Computer Hub Closets

Checklists cleaned up to remove this item. It had been removed several years ago, but wasn't removed from all of the checklists.

Changes to the Glossary

122. Certificate of Inspection (41 Il Admin Code 1000.150(e)60)

Elevators must have a current inspection certificate. **The Certificate of Operation or a copy of the certificate shall be clearly displayed on or in each conveyance.**

Changes to the Glossary

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS, GROUND MOUNTED PANEL SYSTEMS

237. Clearance from Vegetation (IFC24: 1205; IBC15: 605.11)

A clear, brush-free area of 10 feet shall be required for ground-mounted photovoltaic arrays for visibility, service, and emergency access.

~~238. Shutdown and Marking~~

~~(See requirements for roof mounted solar photovoltaic power systems).~~ **Rapid shutdown instructions are not required for ground-mounted installations.**

Changes to the Glossary

TEACHERS' WORKROOMS AND LOUNGES

301. Maintenance of Fire-Rated Construction and Door Closers (IFC: 703; BOCA-F: 303)

If the teachers' lounge has any cooking or heating appliances, with the exception of microwaves, refrigerators, Keurig machines, and coffee pots, the required fire-rated construction shall be maintained. [See Appendix O, P, or Q for requirements]

Changes to the Glossary

Completely revised due to changes in the Title 23 Ill. Adm. Code. No longer is any kind of locking permitted.

Time-Out Rooms

306. Locking [105 ILCS 5/10-20.33(d); 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1.285(a)(4)(E)]

The use of any of the following rooms or enclosures for an isolated time out or time out purposes is **prohibited**:

- 1) Any room with a door fitted with a locking mechanism.
- 2) Any room that is physically blocked by furniture or any other inanimate object at any time during the isolated time out or time out.
- 3) A confining space such as a closet or box.
- 4) A room where the student cannot be continually observed.
- 5) Any other room or enclosure or time out procedure that is contrary to current rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

Changes to the Checklists

Changes to the Glossary are carried over to all checklists

As a reminder only the approved ROE or Fire Service Checklist discussed in this class is permitted to be used for public school inspections. By law, you cannot use your own FD inspection form.

Inspection Portal Procedures: Inspection Submission Process

As a reminder only the approved ROE or Fire Service Checklist discussed in this class is permitted to be used for public school inspections. By law, you cannot use your own FD inspection form.

Mobile Eyes Portal Procedures

Kensie.Proctor@Illinois.gov

217-785-4714

OR

Mobile-Eyes Help Desk at 866-974-1117 ext. 1
(8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. EST)

Email: help@mobile-eyes.com

Code Questions

For questions related to the codes and standards adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education, including code clarification and interpretation please contact:

Cathy Stashak

Catherine.Stashak@illinois.gov

Inspection Program and Qualification Questions

For additional information or assistance with the School Inspection Program including becoming a Qualified Public School Inspector, the Tier I and Tier 2 programs, registering for classes, or information on hosting a Public School Inspection class please contact:

Kensie.Proctor@Illinois.gov
217-785-4714