

Annual Public School Inspections



Illinois
State Board of
Education

John Runge



Dave Demler at ROE #26



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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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.

Timeline for Completing Schools

Please have all your school inspections completed by April 30th of every year.

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

Timeline for Completing Schools

Please have all your school inspections completed by April 30th of every year.

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

The numbering of the Glossary and checklists has been changed substantially OSFM/IARSS need numbering gaps that allow us to add new information without having to have renumber the entire document.

A count of 25 was provided between one topic and the next topic.

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

#5. Door Inspection Testing and Maintenance (Sliding and Rolling Doors)

This has always been a requirement for horizontal and vertical sliding and rolling fire doors, but it was decided to add the language into the Glossary and in the checklists.

BOCA and IFC only: Horizontal and vertical sliding and rolling fire doors shall be inspected and tested annually in accordance with applicable provision of NFPA 80 to confirm proper operation and full closure. Records of inspections and testing shall be maintained.

For school built under the 2024 I-Codes only (NFPA 80-2022): For rolling steel doors and counter service counter fire doors periodic inspections and testing shall be performed by a trained rolling steel fire door systems technician.

Changes to the Glossary

#5. Door Inspection Testing and Maintenance (Openings protectives other than horizontal sliding or vertical rolling doors).

For school built under the 2024 I-Codes only: Opening protectives in fire-resistance-rated assemblies shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with NFPA 80. Opening protectives in smoke barriers shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with NFPA 80 and NFPA 105. Openings in smoke partitions shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with NFPA 105.

Changes to the Glossary

#7. Emergency Lighting Equipment and Illuminated 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

#16. 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

New language added to clarify that painting ceiling tiles is not permitted with an exception.

#24. Interior Wall, Ceiling and Floor Finishes

Newly installed interior wall, ceiling, and floor finishes need to comply with the requirements found in Appendix L. **Painting ceiling tiles is not permitted unless the required interior finish classification will not be affected.**

Changes to the Glossary

New language added to clarify the used of temporary holiday-type lighting as decorative lighting.

#26. Electrical Systems

All identified electrical hazards shall be abated. Electrical installations shall comply with the applicable edition of the National Electrical Code, **including temporary electrical lighting. Temporary electric power and lighting installations shall be permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days for holiday decorative lighting and similar purposes. Decorative lighting used for holiday lighting and similar purposes shall be listed and shall be labeled on the product. Temporary lighting shall not be used in lieu of permanent lighting.**

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

#175. 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

New language clarifying when cloth can be used to cover bulletin boards, walls and ceilings in classrooms.

#265. Artwork in Classrooms

Cloth shall not be used to cover bulletin boards, walls, or ceilings except when the cloth complies with the interior finish requirements for the classroom.

For school buildings constructed on or after July 1, 2016 only:

Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 50% of the specific wall area to which they are attached.

Changes to the Glossary

New language clarifying when cloth can be used to cover bulletin boards, walls and ceilings in corridors.

297. Artwork (in corridors)

For schools contracted for design on or after September 25, 2007 only: Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on the walls of corridors to not more than 20% of the wall area. **Cloth shall not be used to cover bulletin boards, walls, or ceilings except when the cloth complies with the interior finish requirements for corridors.**

Changes to the Glossary

COURTYARDS (new language related to how courtyards interface with main building means of egress)

#322. Means of Egress

Means of egress from occupiable courtyards shall comply with applicable code requirements. Locking hardware shall comply with applicable code requirements. Means of egress from inside the school building shall not discharge into a courtyard. “Not an Exit” signs shall be installed on the egress side of the doors leading into a courtyard.

Changes to the Glossary

#348. Certificate of Inspection (41 II 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

547. Cooking Hood Extinguishing Systems (change from “or” to “and”)

Fire extinguishing systems installed for the protection of commercial cooking operations that produce grease-laden vapors shall comply with the UL 300. Automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be serviced at least every 6 months and after activation of the system. One current inspection tag shall be displayed on the remote manual pull station **and** the system agent cylinder. Inspections shall be performed by contractors or personnel licensed by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal for these types of systems. After January 1, 2011, licensed contractor will not be able to perform inspection, testing or maintenance on non-UL 300 listed systems.

Changes to the Glossary

#603 Lithium-Ion Technology

While there are no requirements to check, there is a reference to the new Appendix T which provides a lot of good information on lithium-ion batteries. (storage, firefighting tactics, safe charging, traveling, fire protection, etc.)

Changes to the Glossary

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS, GROUND MOUNTED PANEL SYSTEMS

#768. 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

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS, ROOF MOUNTED PANEL SYSTEMS

#794. In addition to the access aisles required by ISBE adopted codes for roof mounted systems, HVAC units, exhaust ducts, and other roof mounted appliances including commercial kitchen exhaust/fans shall have a 4 ft clearance from solar photovoltaic panels.

#796. Manufacturing labels shall not be covered by other labels. Labels shall be UV rated or by use of a UV rated marker. No blank boxes are permitted. If a box is part of a solar photovoltaic system, it must be labeled for its use.

Changes to the Glossary

Clarifying that this language pertains to enclosed stairways and that sprinklers do not offer an exemption from the prohibition.

#912. No Storage within Enclosed Stairs/Stairways

Storage is not permitted within an enclosed stairway, even if the stairway is protected with sprinklers. The only exception to this requirement is if a separate enclosed storage room is created that is enclosed with fire rated construction as what is required for the stairway itself. Access to the enclosed usable storage area shall not be directly from within the stair enclosure.

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

#1029. 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.

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