

The Buncombe County Board of Education is committed to designing new and renovated facilities in a manner that maximizes the use of space, conserves environmental and fiscal resources, and produces structurally sound and safe buildings. All school buildings should be designed to create safe, orderly, and inviting learning environments where students can succeed.

School buildings also will be planned to the extent feasible to allow for community and after-hours use and for providing extended services to students.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for overseeing the design of facilities that have been identified in the long-range facility needs plan and have been approved for funding. New or renovated facilities must be designed in a way that will meet all legal requirements, including current legal standards for accessibility and use of facilities by persons with disabilities. The superintendent may utilize services of outside professionals, including architects and other consultants, in the facility design and construction. Contracts for professional services that are not subject to the Procurement Exemption or are necessary for the design and implementation of previously approved Capital Outlay projects, must (1) be reviewed by the board attorney, (2) be approved by the board, and (3) meet the requirements of any applicable board policies. (See policy 9110, Selection and Use of Architects and Engineers.) The superintendent and his designees also should work to involve school staff, parents, and students in the design of school buildings.

Before investing any money in the construction of any new building, or when using any state money for the erection, repair, or equipping of any building, the superintendent must submit the plans to the Department of Public Instruction for review and comment and must review the plans based upon a consideration of the comments received.

Plans for science facilities in middle and high schools are subject to approval by NCDPI in accordance with G.S. 115C-521(c1) and State Board of Education policy.

The superintendent shall report periodically to the board on the development of facility plans. The superintendent also shall report on the State Board's review of facility plans conducted pursuant to G.S. 115C-521(c) and must specifically address any concerns noted by the State Board. The board must give final approval of the long-range facility plans and annual Capital Outlay budget before any acquisition of real property or construction related money may be spent on new buildings or renovations.

Legal References: 29 U.S.C. 794(b); 34 C.F.R. pt. 104 (subpt. C); 42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*; 28 C.F.R. pt. 35 (subpt. D); G.S. 115C-204, -521; 133, arts. 1 and 3; State Board of Education Policy SCFC-003, *North Carolina Public School Facilities Guidelines*, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning/project-planning#building-design>; State Board of Education Policy SCFC-006, *Procedures Manual: Public School building Capital fund*, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning/capitalfunding>

Cross References: Selection and Use of Architects and Engineers (policy 9110)

Other Resources: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction School Planning Publications, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning>.

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REPLACES BCS POLICY 517