

Community

Series C-19
COVID-19 Policies and Regulations

POLICY CONCERNING USE OF DOOR CHOCKS TO HOLD CLASSROOM DOORS (NEW)

FROM THE WATERTOWN FIRE MARSHAL:

As you know per the fire code classroom doors have remained shut to eliminate/reduce possible smoke and fire damage if ever a fire where to happen in a school. The Covid-19 Pandemic has created situations that now make it difficult to keep classroom doors closed. Addendum 8 from the Connecticut State Department of Education states that ...

Connecticut State Fire Safety Code: Chapter 15 — Existing Educational Occupancies, Section 15.3.6.1 Self-closing devices may be omitted on doors between corridors and classrooms, except rooms or areas used as shops or laboratories, where the facility has a written and practiced fire exit drill policy which provides for the closing of all corridor doors upon evacuation, and where said policy provides for doors to classrooms not in use to be kept closed.

Classroom Doors Classroom doors can be open as long as: 1) the school building has a full sprinkler system; or, 2) the school safety plan includes language that these doors must be closed upon leaving the room.

This being the case as discussed, I am allowing the use of door chocks to hold classroom doors (as described in the addendum) open during this school year providing that a written policy is put into place stating that door chocks will be removed when the classroom is unoccupied, when evacuated for fire alarm including drills and during a lock down or shelter in place type drills. I am not allowing any part of the door or closure to be removed.

ADOPTED: BOE: 9/8/2020