

## FACILITY DESIGN

The New Hanover County Board of Education is committed to maintaining and constructing structurally sound and safe facilities in a manner that maximizes the use of space, conserves fiscal resources and considers environmental issues specific to the area. Retrofit and new construction design should consider all local codes, ordinances and guidelines, including but not limited to the City-County Joint Low Impact Development Manual. All schools should be designed to create safe, orderly and inviting learning environments where students can succeed. School system facilities will be planned to the extent feasible for maximum use by the community and for providing extended services to students.

The Superintendent 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 legal standards for accessibility and use of facilities by persons with disabilities. Educational specifications shall be developed and approved by the Board. They must include a description of:

- The activities expected to take place in the building;
- The school's curriculum;
- Specific architectural characteristics desired;
- The equipment needs and the equipment space requirements in relation to other facility elements; and
- Relevant budget or other governing factors.

The Superintendent shall report periodically to the Board on the development of facility plans. The Superintendent or designee shall consider the State Board of Education's review of facility plans conducted pursuant to NCGS 115C-521(c) and must specifically address any concerns noted by the State Board. The State Board must issue a certificate of review before any money may be spent on new buildings or renovations.

LEGAL REFS: NCGS 115C-204, -521; State Board of Education, North Carolina Public School Facilities Guidelines; Safe Schools Facility Planner

CROSS REF: Policy 5210 Selection for Project Designers

Adopted: 04/14/87

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