

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RULES
BOARD OF HEALTH

School Sanitation

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Chapter 16-1
Series 44
(1983)

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Subject: School Sanitation

Section 1. General

1.1. Scope - These legislative rules establishes the minimum sanitation requirements for all public or private schools.

1.2. Authority - These legislative rules are issued under the authority of and are related to Chapter 16, Article 1, Section 7 of the West Virginia Code of 1931, as amended.

1.3. Filing Date - These legislative rules were filed on the 28th day of November, 1967, in the Secretary of State's office.

1.4. Effective Date - These legislative rules became effective on the 29th day of December, 1967.

1.5. Refiling Date - These legislative rules were refiled pursuant to Chapter 29A, Article 2, Section 5 of the West Virginia Code of 1931, as amended on the 30th day of December, 1982, in the Secretary of State's Office.

Section 2. Application and Enforcement

2.1. Application - These legislative rules apply to the governing bodies of all public and private schools.

2.2. Enforcement - The enforcement of these legislative rules is vested with the director of the West Virginia department of health or his lawful designee.

Section 3. Sites - All school sites shall be dry and such drainage as may be necessary shall be provided to the end of maintaining dry grounds and a dry building site. Said site and said building shall not be nearer than 500 feet to any barn or stable where horses, mules or cattle are housed. And when said school building or school site has been established, no barn, stable or any noise-making industry or unhealthful condition shall thereafter be constructed, erected or maintained within 500 feet of any school building, school site or school grounds.

Section 4. Buildings - Foundations must be substantial and entirely closed for protection in winter. Doors to school buildings should open outward and all entrance and exit doors shall be unlocked when school is in session.

Section 5. Lighting and Seating - All schoolrooms where pupils are seated for study shall be lighted from the left or left and rear and the glass area shall not be less than one-sixth the floor area. Windows shall be narrowly separated, tops square, not less than 11 feet from the floor or at a height from floor equal to one-half room width, and bottoms not less than 3 1/2 feet from floor. Shades, where necessary, shall be translucent and adjustable from top and bottom or both ways from horizontal middle of window. Artificial lighting shall be indirect or well shaded.

Section 6. Blackboards and Cloakrooms - Blackboards shall preferably be of slate, but of whatever material the color shall afford maximum vision protection. Cloakrooms, well lighted, warmed and ventilated or sanitary lockers shall be provided for each study schoolroom.

Section 7. Water Supply and Drinking Arrangements - All schoolhouses shall be provided with an adequate, safe drinking water supply. Properly protected drilled wells or other supplies approved by the local or state health authorities shall be used. Dug wells with rope and bucket system are prohibited. The pail and common dipper are prohibited and a sanitary fountain or a sanitary water tank or cooler should be provided instead. Whenever possible, sanitary drinking fountains with slanting jet should be used. All schoolhouse wells and springs shall be protected from surface contamination by proper enclosure and providing for drainage of waste water away from the source of water supply in accordance with plans on file in the state department of health.

Section 8. Heating and Ventilation - All schoolhouses hereafter constructed shall be supplied with heating and ventilating systems. Fresh air shall be taken from outside the building and properly diffused throughout the schoolrooms without drafts. Eighteen hundred cubic feet of fresh air per hour shall be supplied for each child who shall be allotted at least two hundred and twenty-five cubic feet of schoolroom space. Heating systems shall be capable of maintaining a temperature of 70° F. in the schoolroom. It is lawful for school boards to establish and maintain open-air schools and the provisions of this section shall not apply to open-air schools.

Section 9. Sewage Disposal -- Sanitary Privies - Where water-flush toilets are provided, connection shall be made to the public sewerage system. If none is available, sanitary disposal of sewage wastes shall be by means of a septic tank system designed and installed in accordance with plans which are approved by the state department of health or county

health officer. The board of education shall provide, wherever no water-flush system is possible, two sanitary privies at each public school, one for boys and one for girls. Sanitary privies shall be considered an essential and necessary part of the equipment of each school and failure on the part of the board of education or any county superintendent to make provision for sanitary privies and maintain them in a clean and decent condition shall be considered a misdemeanor to be dealt with in accordance with the state law. The less expensive pit-type of sanitary privy properly vented and constructed in accordance with plans supplied by the state department of health may be installed in the rural schools. Chemical toilets are not considered suitable or satisfactory for rural schools.