

**RULES GOVERNING
THE SANITATION OF
PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND
RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS
15A NCAC 18A .2400**

NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

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All Environmental Health Rules can be accessed at the following website

<https://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/rules.htm>

North Carolina General Statutes can be accessed at the following website

www.ncleg.net/gascripts/statutes/statutestoc.pl

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EHS 1163 – INSPECTION OF SCHOOL

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTES
130A-236 THROUGH 130A-237**

§ 130A-236. Regulation of sanitation in schools.

For the protection of the public health, the Commission shall adopt rules to establish sanitation requirements for public, private and religious schools. The rules shall address, but not be limited to, the cleanliness of floors, walls, ceilings, storage spaces and other areas; adequacy of lighting, ventilation, water supply, toilet and lavatory facilities; sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities; and solid waste disposal. The Department shall inspect schools at least annually. The Department shall submit written inspection reports of public schools to the State Board of Education and written inspection reports of private and religious schools to the Department of Administration. (1973, c. 1239, s. 1; 1983, c. 891, s. 2; 1993, c. 522, s. 11.)

§ 130A-237. Corrective action.

A principal or administrative head of a public, private, or religious school shall immediately take action to correct conditions that do not satisfy the sanitation rules. (1973, c. 1239, s. 2; 1983, c. 891, s. 2; 1993, c. 262, s. 6.)

SECTION .2400 - SANITATION OF PUBLIC: PRIVATE: AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

Rules .2401 - .2417 of Title 15A Subchapter 18A of the North Carolina Administrative Code (T15A.18A .2401 - .2417); has been transferred and recodified from Rules .2401 - .2417 Title 10 Subchapter 10A of the North Carolina Administrative Code (T10.10A .2401 - .2417), effective April 4, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2401 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply throughout this Section:

- (1) "Central toilet" means a toilet which exits into a hallway or corridor and has more than one water closet.
- (2) "Department" means the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its authorized agents.
- (3) "Home school" means a school as defined in G.S. 115C-563.
- (4) "Principal" means the executive head of a school.
- (5) "Private or religious school" means a school which is not supported by funds appropriated by the General Assembly of North Carolina, by the federal government, or through local governmental sources.
- (6) "Public school" means a school supported by public funds appropriated by the General Assembly of North Carolina, by the federal government, and through local governmental sources.
- (7) "Sanitarian" means a person authorized to represent the Department in enforcing the rules of this Section.
- (8) "Superintendent" means the chief administrative head of a local school administrative unit.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2002; September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2402 INSPECTIONS

- (a) An inspection of each school shall be made by the Department at least once a year to determine compliance with this Section.
- (b) An inspection report shall be completed by the sanitarian upon completion of the inspection.
- (c) If the conditions found at the time of the inspection of a public school are dangerous to the health of the students, or if an imminent hazard exists, the sanitarian shall notify the office of the local superintendent immediately by telephone or other direct means. A copy of the inspection report shall be immediately forwarded to the local and state superintendents.
- (d) If the conditions found at the time of the inspection of a private or religious school are dangerous to the health of the students, or if an imminent hazard exists, the sanitarian shall notify the Office of Non-Public Education, 532 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27604, immediately by telephone or other direct means. A copy of the inspection report shall be immediately forwarded to that office.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2403 CLASSIFICATION

- (a) Schools shall be classified as follows: schools which receive a score of at least 90 percent shall be classified A; schools which receive a score of at least 80 percent and less than 90 percent shall be classified B; schools which receive a score of at least 70 percent and less than 80 percent shall be classified C; and schools which receive a score of less than 70 percent shall be classified as unapproved. When the school is classified as unapproved, the sanitarian shall provide notification in accordance with Rule .2402(c) or (d) as appropriate. Grade cards shall not be posted in schools.

(b) The grading of schools shall be based on the standards of operation and construction as set forth in Rules .2405 through .2415 of this Section.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986.

15A NCAC 18A .2404 REINSPECTIONS

Upon request of the principal, a reinspection shall be made for the purpose of improving a classification. An unannounced inspection shall be made after the lapse of a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 days, from the date of the request.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986.

15A NCAC 18A .2405 WATER SUPPLY

- (a) The water supply shall be from an approved source and shall be adequate and of a safe, sanitary quality.
- (b) The water supply used shall be located, constructed, maintained, and operated in accordance with the Commission for Health Services' rules governing water supplies. Copies of 15A NCAC 18A .1700 and 15A NCAC 18C may be obtained from the Department. A sample of water from a private or public non-community water supply serving a school shall be collected by the sanitarian and submitted at least once a year to the Division of Laboratory Services or other laboratory certified by the Department to perform bacteriological examination.
- (c) Backflow connections and cross-connections with unapproved water supplies are prohibited.
- (d) Hot and cold running water under pressure shall be provided to food preparation areas, and any other areas in which water is required for operations and maintenance cleaning.
- (e) The well house shall be kept clean and free of storage.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2406 DRINKING FOUNTAINS

- (a) Drinking fountains shall be provided and installed as required by the North Carolina State Building Code. Copies of the North Carolina State Building Code may be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 26387, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.
- (b) Fountains shall be provided with adequate water pressure, properly regulated, kept clean and in good repair.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2407 SANITARY SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All sewage and other liquid wastes shall be disposed of in a public sewer system or, in the absence of a public sewer system, by an approved, properly operating sanitary sewage system.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986.

15A NCAC 18A .2408 TOILET FACILITIES

- (a) Toilet facilities shall be provided and installed as required by the North Carolina State Building Code. Copies of the North Carolina State Building Code may be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 26387, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.
- (b) Walls and ceilings of toilet facilities shall be constructed of non-absorbent, washable materials and shall be kept clean.
- (c) Floors of toilet facilities shall be impervious and kept clean.

(d) Toilet fixtures shall be kept clean and in good repair.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2409 LAVATORY FACILITIES

(a) Lavatory facilities shall be provided and installed as required by the North Carolina State Building Code. Copies of the North Carolina State Building Code may be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 26387, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

(b) Fixtures shall be kept clean and in good repair.

(c) Soap and individual towels or approved hand-drying devices shall be provided.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2410 FLOORS: WALLS: AND CEILINGS

Floors, walls, and ceilings of all areas shall be kept clean and in good repair.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986.

15A NCAC 18A .2411 STORAGE SPACES

Storage spaces and custodians' closets shall be kept clean and arranged so as to facilitate cleaning. All storage shall be at least 15 inches (38.1 centimeters) above the floor or otherwise arranged so as to permit thorough cleaning.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986.

15A NCAC 18A .2412 LIGHTING AND VENTILATION

(a) Lighting and ventilation shall be provided and installed as required by the North Carolina State Building Code. Copies of the North Carolina State Building Code may be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 26387, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

(b) All windows and fixtures (grills, vents, blinds, drapes, lighting fixtures, etc.) shall be kept clean and in good repair.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2413 DRESSING ROOMS AND SHOWERS

(a) Floors, walls, and ceilings shall be kept clean and in good repair.

(b) Floors, walls, and ceilings of shower areas shall be washable and non-absorbent.

(c) Showers shall be provided and installed as required by the North Carolina State Building Code. Copies of the North Carolina State Building Code may be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 26387, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

(d) All fixtures shall be kept clean and in good repair.

(e) Adequate facilities for storage of clothes and other personal items shall be provided and kept clean.

(f) A clean bath towel and soap shall be provided for each person using the showers.

(g) All bath towels shall be stored in a sanitary manner.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2414 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

- (a) Impervious, cleanable containers with lids, approved by the Department, shall be provided for the storage of solid waste.
- (b) Solid waste containers shall be kept clean, in good repair, and emptied when full, but not less than once a week.
- (c) All solid waste shall be disposed of in an approved landfill or by a method approved by the Department in accordance with state laws and rules.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1990.

15A NCAC 18A .2415 PREMISES: MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) The premises of the school under control of the principal shall be kept neat and clean at all times. Waste material, unnecessary articles, rubbish, litter, or garbage shall not be allowed to accumulate on the premises. There shall be no fly or mosquito breeding places, rodent harborages, or undrained areas on the premises.
- (b) Pesticides and other toxic materials shall be used as directed on the label and handled and stored as to avoid health hazards.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986.

15A NCAC 18A .2416 REQUIREMENTS FOR HOME SCHOOLS

Home schools shall be exempt from this Section.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
Eff. January 1, 1986.

15A NCAC 18A .2417 APPEALS PROCEDURE

Appeals concerning the interpretation and enforcement of the rules in this Section shall be made in accordance with G.S. 150B.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-236;
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