

MEMORANDUM No. 26

TO: Kentucky School Architects

FROM: Greg Dunbar, Manager
District Facilities Branch

DATE: February 4, 2013

RE: **School Safety and Security**

In his recent email communication to the state's superintendents, Commissioner Holliday noted, "Many tragedies create an instinctive reaction to find immediate "after the fact" solutions. With the tragedy at Sandy Hook in Connecticut, school safety and security have come under the microscope."

Fortunately, many of Kentucky's school districts have been addressing this issue for quite some time. However, some other districts are now scrambling to implement security measures at their schools. Although we feel this is a prudent response, required safety issues should not be compromised in the process.

Within the last few weeks we have received requests for "security" projects that have been initiated and designed by school principals, maintenance directors and others within the district. Some of these projects have not addressed school security in the context of life safety. 815 KAR 10:060 Kentucky Standards of Safety defines the compliance requirements regarding life safety. This regulation includes the Kentucky Building Code, NFPA 1-Uniform Fire Code (2006), and NFPA 101-Life Safety Code (2006). Security design is not specifically addressed in these codes nor is it currently included in KDE regulation.

The design of safe and secure schools is a complicated issue that requires the thoughtful efforts of the district and their consultants to achieve a holistic approach. The effects of proposed changes to means of egress and related components (doors, hardware, etc.), building systems (HVAC and controls, lighting (general, emergency and exit), fire alarm, communications, electrical, and security) should be addressed. The effectiveness of proposed materials should be evaluated relative to the level of security desired. How these changes are integrated with existing materials and finishes should be considered.

By statute (KRS 323.033), alterations or new construction involving educational use groups regardless of capacity requires the services of a licensed architect. If the work involves the practice of engineering, this statute and KRS 322.360 also requires the services of a professional engineer.

For the above reasons, this memo is intended to serve as a reminder of the requirements that must be met to address these issues for our districts and their consultants.

Security projects shall follow the same guidelines as other KDE renovation projects and shall be initiated with the submission of a BG-1 Project Application Form. Upon approval, a BG-1 Checklist will be sent to the district outlining the steps that must be followed to complete the work.

Funding

In the 2008 revision to 4:180, the definition of "Major Renovation" added four (4) exceptions to the three (3) systems, thirty (30) year rules. One of these was allowing Safety and Security as a single system, "or if required by a change in regulation or code". We have allowed this work to be done with restricted funds if it is noted on the District Facility Plan (DFP) or if not on the DFP using restricted cash with the Capital Funds Request Process. You may want to review this option with the district when developing the BG-1.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call me or Tim Lucas at 502-564-4326 or send an email to Greg.Dunbar@education.ky.gov or Tim.Lucas@education.ky.gov.