

Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office
Official Interpretation and Code Directive #1

Rescue Windows in Classrooms

Effective March 11, 2013 (Revised 2-12-2018)

The International Building Code does not specifically require rescue windows in Educational facilities. The Office of the State Fire Marshal will enforce the current Life Safety Code requirement from Chapter 14. This chapter states: Every room or space greater than 250sq. ft. and used for a classroom or other educational purposes or normally subject to student occupancy shall have not less than one outside window for emergency rescue that complies with the following, unless otherwise permitted.

1. Such window(s) shall be operational from the inside of the building without the use of tools and shall provide a clear opening of not less than 20 inches in width, 24 inches in height, and 5.7sq. ft. in area.
2. The bottom of the opening shall be not more than 44" above the floor and any latching device shall be capable of being operated from not more than 54 inches above the finished floor.
3. The clear opening shall allow for a rectangular solid, with a width and height that provides not less than the required 5.7sq. ft. opening and a depth of not less than 20 inches to pass fully through the opening.
4. Such windows shall be accessible by the fire department and shall open into the area having access to a public way.

It is our hope that we can work together to develop new sites while remaining committed to maintaining the utmost level of life safety by making Oklahoma structures as safe as possible through congruent code enforcement.

Robert Doke
State Fire Marshal

