

Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office  
Official Interpretation and Code Directive 2013-1

Rescue Windows in Classrooms

Effective March 11, 2013 (Updated 7-16-2025)

The International Building Code does not specifically require rescue windows in occupancies classified as Educational facilities. The Office of the State Fire Marshal will enforce the current NFPA Life Safety Code 101 requirement from Chapter 14 which states:

*Every room or space greater than 250 sq. feet 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.*

All classrooms on the first floor within an Education occupancy that are positioned within the building and have at least one exterior wall adjacent to a public way must have not less than one (1) egress door leading directly to the outside OR not less than one (1) rescue window, located within the exterior wall for emergency rescue/egress, that complies with Items 1-5 noted below.

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 5.7 sq. feet 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.
5. The emergency rescue/egress window must be properly identified and a label affixed to that specific window so it can be seen from within.

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

G. Keith Bryant  
State Fire Marshal

