

2.2 AREA STANDARD POLICIES

2.2.1 Nominal Capacity

Term *nominal capacity* can be defined by the following definitions:

- existing or being something in name or form only
- of, being, or relating to a designated or theoretical size that may vary from the actual: APPROXIMATE.

In this document *nominal capacity* represents the student capacity of a school based on the following capacities per instructional space:

- Kindergarten 20 pupils per classroom
- Elementary 25 pupils per classroom
- Middle & Secondary 25 pupils per classroom and vocational module.

The *nominal capacity* for each new and existing school shall be based on the space standards for elementary, middle and secondary schools. The *nominal capacity* will form a base line capacity which will remain fixed, subject only to changes being made in physical space that would effect the nominal capacity and adjustments in the space standards. Examples include additions and/or renovations.

To accommodate capacity adjustments for grade structure and classroom student capacity, the *nominal capacity* will be adjusted to an *operating capacity*.

2.2.2 Operating Capacity:

The *operating capacity* of a school is determined by adjusting the *nominal capacity* to reflect grade structure and classroom student capacity. The *operating capacity* and *nominal capacity* may be the same value, as will be the case for most middle and secondary schools.

As an example, based on the following grade structure and classroom student capacity:

- Classroom Student Capacity: - Kindergarten 19
 - Grades 1-3 21
 - Grades 4-7 25
- Grade Structure: - K to 7
- Average Classroom 1-7 Capacity: - 23.29

The determination of area allowances to accommodate 33 kindergarten and 235 elementary students will result in a school with a *nominal capacity* of 40 kindergarten and 275 elementary pupils and an *operating capacity* of 38 kindergarten and 256 elementary pupils.

Local trends shall be taken into account when determining the most appropriate nominal capacity. For example, elementary enrolment projections and

population growth rates may justify a nominal capacity of 400 in an area where enrolments are increasing, but only 375 where future increases seem unlikely. Based upon actual enrolment figures and future projections the nominal capacity and the corresponding operating capacity must be agreed to by the Ministry.

To determine the nominal and operating capacities of existing schools the areas of the existing school are compared to the area standards that most closely approximates the areas of the subject school. The nominal and operating capacities calculated for an existing school must be agreed to by the Ministry.

Note: The Ministry's designated nominal and operating capacity is used to make comparisons across the province, and is not a mandated or maximum capacity. School boards determine their own operating capacities, based on local decisions, and subject to the limits established by the *School Act*.

2.2.3 Area Measurement

Room or Module Areas

Room or module area will be measured net within the inside surfaces of main enclosing walls and partitions.

Undefined Boundaries

Sometimes the boundary between circulation and other spaces such as libraries is not clearly defined. For calculation of allowable areas when this is so, passageways shall be assumed to be not less than 2 m wide where circulation is likely.

Mezzanines

With the exception of Industrial Education mezzanine storage, mezzanines shall be measured and considered as normal floor space

Stages

Stage areas are generally included as part of the main space served such as drama, physical education, or multi-purpose space. For example, a stage in a drama room would be included in the area of the drama module. Small stages which exist in many elementary gymnasiums, that are too small to be used for physical education, may be included as design space. If a stage is being used for some other purpose for example, storage, the space should be included under function of its current use.

Ancillary Rooms

Ancillary spaces that are less than 40 m², such as seminar rooms, storage rooms, workrooms, and elementary cloakrooms, shall be measured as part of the main instructional space only when directly accessible from that space. Seminar rooms 40 m² and larger shall be measured as instructional space, regardless of access.