

# Current School Building Standards

- Provincial –

Research done by the *Concerned About Classrooms Coalition*

Province	Name of Building Standards	Notes
British Columbia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Area Standards</i> Formerly called the <i>B.C. School Facilities Building Manual</i></li> <li><i>Accessible School Facilities: A Resource for Planning</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These standards apply to all facilities that are to be either newly constructed or enlarged. The standards are also to be used to establish the nominal capacity of existing schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specifies classroom size, capacity, etc.</li> <li>No reference to sound/noise</li> </ul> </li> <li>Specifically mentions ways of facilitating learning of those with disabilities</li> </ol>
Alberta	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Standards and Guidelines for School Construction</i></li> <li><i>A Guide to Existing Legislation, Regulations, Policy and Guidelines</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deals mostly with mechanical and structural concerns</li> <li>More procedural</li> </ol> <p>*Note that Alberta is implementing a new “modular classroom program” (i.e.: better portables), which may not be reflected in these standards.</p>
Saskatchewan	<i>Pre-K to 12 School Facilities Funding Guide</i> Effective from April 1, 2006	“Sound proof surfaces and carpet” a design recommendation for resources centres.
Manitoba	<i>School Building Space Standards</i> from December 2006	Only mention of noise/sound is for design suggestions for Autistic student quiet room.
Ontario		Ontario has no province-wide school construction standards; individual boards may determine their own.
Québec		No information available.
New Brunswick	<i>Design Guidelines for Educational Facilities</i>	
Nova Scotia		2007 Design requirement manual for new schools specifies that a sound field system needs to be included in all new elementary classrooms. Sound transmission between classrooms needs to have an STC of 42 which is less than the ANSI recommendation of 50.
PEI		They have a document from 1999, which has had modifications added to it by hand. However, they have started to include things such as “sound enhancements” for classrooms (speakers, teachers wear microphones) which are not included in original document.
Newfoundland & Labrador		A document exists but it is out of date. They are in the process of updating it.

Yukon		No information available.
Northwest Territories		No information available.

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### - Other jurisdictions –

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**World Health Organisation advises classrooms and study areas to keep noise levels to a maximum of 35 decibels.**

See: <http://theurbanwire.com/nptribune/2009/01/noise-at-study-areas-exceed-who-standards/>

See also: <http://www.who.int/docstore/peh/noise/guidelines2.html> \*(link 3. Adverse health effects of noise)

#### **ENGLAND:**

A standard exists for acoustics in newly built schools, known as Building Bulletin 93. They say it is likely that it will be used as a 'best practice' document for existing premises also.

See: [www.teachernet.gov.uk/Acoustics](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/Acoustics)