

Care for Our Schools

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Code of Virginia

Title 22.1. Education

Chapter 7. General Powers and Duties of School Boards

§22.1-79. Powers and duties

3. Care for, manage and control the property of the school division and provide for the erecting, furnishing, equipping, and noninstructional operating of necessary school buildings and appurtenances and the maintenance thereof by purchase, lease, or other contracts;

Is our School Board following state law and fulfilling their duty to “care for” our schools? You be the judge by reading a few of the code violations noted by the health department when performing inspections at the kitchens that prepare our students lunches.

Below are a few of the violations reported by health inspectors at several of our schools.

- Ceiling of the walk-in cooler noted in need of cleaning. Observed ceiling covered in soilage.
- Physical structures are not maintained in good repair: 1) Light bulb blown out in walk-in cooler; observed the light in the walk-in cooler blown out. 2) Ceiling tiles damaged in kitchen and office area of facility.
- Dead or trapped pests was found on the premises. Also observed flies flying around the facility.
- The ambient air thermometer on the hot holding cabinet is not accurate (reading 120°F and dial has not moved when door is opened; EHS measured ambient air at 177°F).
- The physical structures are not maintained in good repair: 1) cove molding not secured to floor-wall juncture below three compartment sink and two compartment sink 2) floor tile damaged at door frame to prep area 3) one floor tile damaged below three compartment sink
- The following equipment are in poor repair: 1) Door gasket torn, multiple sections, on the walk-in cooler. 2) Trim on exterior ice machine lid.
- The physical structures are not maintained in good repair: 1) cracks in the wall in the restroom and along wall where three compartment sink, prep table, and 2-compartment sink located 2) wall vent in employee restroom is corroded 3) door frame
- trim at kitchen-hall juncture is scored 4) gaps exist along floor-wall juncture in storeroom behind/below the storage racks 5) paint laking, blistering, and cracking along wall where three compartment sink, prep sink, and two compartment sink installed
- Observed the metal panel on the door frame at the dry storage room entryway is heavily corroded and flaking rust and is not smooth and easily cleanable.
- Observed heavy peeling paint on the wall near the dish machine, the wall near the food prep sink, and the wall at the serving line.
- Observed peeling paint on ceiling throughout kitchen.

Keep in mind that this does not report other conditions throughout our schools. Like the AC in the band room being inoperable for years, or toilets broken for a month. Then there is the dead bat in the passageway for half a year, and the duct taped electrical panel...have I mentioned leaky roofs.

Do these conditions influence our children's education negatively? Studies suggest that **YES IT DOES!**
Would this indicate another law violation for failing to provide a quality education?