

## School Basement exiting:

Occupied rooms and classrooms located in basements pose unique and difficult firefighting and life safety problems. Fire department access from the outside is not easily provided. In a fire situation, the firefighters must attack the fire from above. Likewise, persons wanting to exit from these spaces have limited options since windows or doors are nonexistent or windows are difficult to utilize. Fires originating in basements tend to be more severe because of the access problems.

“Basements” are below the first story. The first story is not more than 6 feet above grade for over 50 percent of the perimeter of the building and not more than 12 feet above grade at any point.

## Education Occupancies

Basement exiting shall provide access to two exits from all areas in a basement used for educational purposes. At least one exit shall lead directly to the exterior without entering the upper floor or upper floor corridor, except when previously approved and documented by OSFM. The following diagram illustrates the typical exiting requirements for basements.

