

KSFM 2025 - 004 - KSFM Prevention Information Release

To: Kansas Schools

Date: April 17, 2025

Subject: De-Escalation Rooms

Many schools employ the use of some sort of de-escalation room, which are designed to help students regulate their emotions and behavior. These may also be known as calming rooms, seclusion rooms, or time-out rooms. While there are no specific regulations within the International Fire Code regarding these rooms, KSFM does have minimum safety requirements that must be met.

1. The door must swing in the direction of egress, outward from the room.
2. If the door latches into the frame, there must be a way to open it from inside the room.
3. If there is a need for a locking door to confine a student, it must have a feature which unlocks automatically when the overseeing school employee moves away from their viewing position.
4. If the locking device is electric:
 - a. It must disengage upon loss of power.
 - b. Activation of the fire alarm system must interrupt power to the locking device.

These safety requirements ensure that all requirements for a means of egress are being met while preventing a student from inadvertently becoming trapped within the room in the event of an emergency. They also support the State Department of Education requirements found in K.A.R. 91-42-2(d)(4) which state that when a student is placed in seclusion, a school employee shall see and hear the student at all times and that the door shall be designed so that the lock automatically disengages when the employee viewing the student walks away from the area of isolation, or in cases of emergency.

For questions and to assist you in complying with the requirements, KSFM has a section on its website devoted to schools.

Please visit <https://firemarshal.ks.gov/372/K-12>.

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