

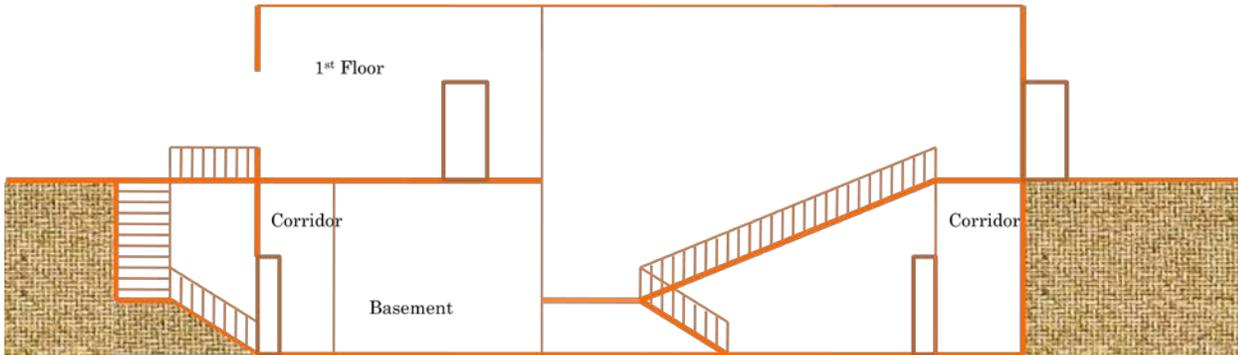


Occupied rooms and classrooms located in basements pose unique and difficult firefighting and life safety problems. Fire department access from the outside is not easily provided. In a fire situation, the firefighters must attack the fire from above. Likewise, persons needing to exit from these spaces 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 defined as 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.

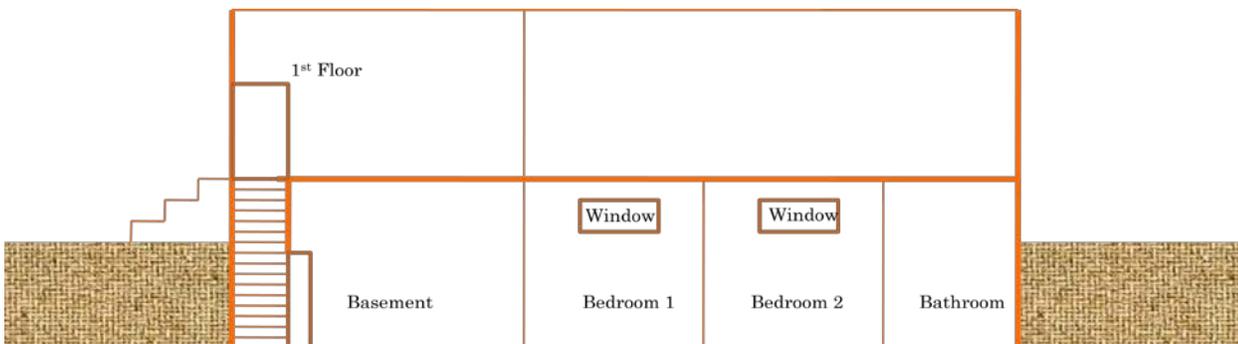
Education Occupancies

Basement exiting shall provide access to at least 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.



Childcare Homes

Basement exiting must provide access to two separate and remote exit paths. One exit must be stairs leading back to the main floor. The second exit may be another set of compliant stairs leading to the main level, a rescue/ventilation window to the outside, or a door that leads directly outside and continues to ground level. Any window used for exiting must meet the requirements found in Fire Fact 034. The following diagram illustrates the typical exiting requirements for basements.



Cross view of basement with interior stairs and compliant egress windows