



Public Schools of North Carolina

NC Department of Public Instruction
Division of School Support, School Insurance
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APPLIANCES IN CLASSROOMS

The "Fund's" position has been to discourage locating appliances; such as; microwave ovens, toaster ovens, coffee pots, hot plates, and refrigerators, throughout the school and encourage location and use in lounges and teaching kitchens. Safety, being our main concern. We reason that centralizing them reduces risk by controlling access, limiting the number of hazard points in the building and lessens the possibility of misuse. In addition to the safety enhancements, we believe centralization and limitation of appliances has other benefits to school systems in the form of reduced energy consumption and a reduction in the possibility of electrical system overload or necessity of increasing electrical capacity.

If a mentioned appliance is mandated to meet instructional or medical needs, we ask you initiate the following actions to assure safe use.

1. Classroom authorization is designated at the Superintendent level. This should include referencing the applicable and appropriate educational or medical mandate necessitating such usage.
2. The maintenance department's licensed electrical staff evaluates and certifies that utilization of such appliances does not present an undue risk of overloading the sites electrical infrastructure.
3. The subsequent authorization and approval documentation is present for inspection in the school's office and in the classroom where such appliances are being utilized.
4. In addition, we recommend appliances in classrooms approved for instructional use only, are disengaged from the electrical system, cleaned, and properly stored at the end of each instructional session.

Adherence to the above policy will hopefully lead to a positive educational environment and one that is as safe as possible. Other benefits include a positive underwriting decision, which leads to better insurance coverage and lower costs for that coverage.

Also, be aware that "Local Authorities" in their jurisdictions have fire and mechanical codes that require them to insure appliances are safely installed and used. In addition, they are empowered to order them removed if found unsafe. Fire Code references include 110.3, 305.1, and 603.7. Mechanical Code references include 507.2.2 and 917.2.