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## Introduction

### Purpose

The intent of Chapter 7 is to provide standards and guidelines necessary to plan, design and construct school facilities throughout the state of Arkansas. The focus is on building systems and materials that will provide buildings that are economical and reflect quality construction, along with mandatory performance standards, additional options and available choices. All items and systems, such as loose furnishings, casework, technology, etc., should be integrated early in the planning phase of the project.

### Definitions

The planning and design of school facilities shall be based upon criteria described in Chapter 7 in accordance with the following definitions:

“Standards” - Performance or construction required items for which there is mandatory adherence.

“Guidelines” - Performance or construction items which are recommended, but NOT required.

“Components”, “Examples” - Typical element(s) of standards or guidelines.

### **Codes and Standards**

Applicable local, state, and international building codes and standards are not repeated in this chapter. It is the responsibility of the design professionals to conform to the current codes in their design process. Should the standards contained in this manual be in conflict with international, state, or local codes, the established codes shall prevail. The requirements of ADAAG (Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines) should be consulted.

No attempt has been made to provide detailed specifications in Chapter 7. Standards and guidelines are available that allow architects and engineers the flexibility to design to fit the School District needs.

### **Applicability**

The construction and performance standards and guidelines contained herein are applicable to both new construction of public school facilities and renovation of existing public school facilities. Every attempt should be made to apply these standards and guidelines to existing buildings, in gradual steps as funding and other influences allow (refer to Chapter 1). It may be recognized that some standards may not be compatible with existing facilities in renovation projects nor may it be possible to completely conform a performance or construction standard to a new facility. In those instances, variances to those standards, upon request, may be granted by the Division.