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MEMORANDUM

TO:

FROM: David Daignault, Coordinator of Health & Safety,
Code Enforcement Officer

DATE: September 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Fire Code Clarification

In continuation of our efforts to enforce the Fire Code consistently among our districts, I have received clarification from Dave Clapp, Fire Safety Coordinator, SED Facilities Planning, on the issue of wires, hooks and clips used to display student artwork in classrooms.

Wires suspended below a classroom ceiling for the purpose of hanging student artwork are acceptable provided that they comply with the following:

1. Do not present an entanglement or entrapment hazard for individuals walking through the room, i.e. wires maintained 7 feet or higher in an aisle way;
2. Do not obstruct the view to the Rescue Window or any exit door;
3. Are not hung from the light fixtures;
4. Are not fastened to a drop ceiling grid or into ceiling tiles.

It was further communicated to me that student artwork can be regarded as a temporary decoration, versus a permanent item, i.e. curtains, drapes, hangings and other decorative items, and as such would not need to be fire resistant or non-combustible.

Items intended to be permanent and suspended from walls or ceilings would have to be non-combustible or fire-treated. Permanent two-dimensional posters and paper directly attached to a classroom wall are not subject to this provision.

Additionally, I recommend that wires not be hung in front of or across the classroom door and that adequate clearance in front of the door is maintained, i.e. 8 feet. To avoid any entanglement or entrapment potential, wires should not be criss-crossed or run perpendicular to each other. If items are limited in size to 11 inches long (typical length of a standard sheet of paper) that would serve to prevent conditions where rescue windows or exit doors are obstructed and keep the overall load within reason.

Feel free to call should you have questions or require further assistance.