

FACT SHEET



What is "Area Standards"?

Area Standards is a government policy that determines the maximum space allocation for all new and replacement schools in BC.

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BC Parents, teachers and administrators are **concerned** about the size and educational restrictions of new schools for the following reasons.

- Crowding due to lack of circulation space
- Loss of music rooms, art rooms and performance space
- Loss of spaces outside the classroom for reading assistance, project work and quiet areas for regulation
- Loss of space for programming flexibility
- Lack of storage
- Inability of new schools to accommodate all in-catchment students
- Stress on new school facilities due to high density use
- Insufficient gym space
- Lack of auditorium space in Secondary schools

BC Area Standards are far below other provinces in per pupil space allowance. Under current BC Area Standards, replacement schools are on average **30% smaller** for student populations of the same size.

School size and design impacts teaching and learning conditions for all students.

Safe schools should mean that they are physically safe, psychologically safe and educationally safe.

Under current BC Area Standards, schools are TOO SMALL!

What can you do?

- Share our brief with your local MLA: <http://www.panvancouver.ca/news/pan-calls-for-an-area-standards-review>
- Write to your local MLA using our online email tool. It takes less than 2 minutes: <http://www.panvancouver.ca/buildschoolsright.html>
- Include **#buildschoolsright** on social media.

Did you know that BC's Area Standards:

- Have the lowest space allocation per student in both instructional and gross floor area when compared with other provinces
- Do not align with space requirements for implementation of the redesigned BC curriculum
- Do not accommodate specialized hands-on learning spaces for art/science, music or performing arts in elementary schools
- Do not adjust space allocations for multipurpose space and gym in schools to reflect increased school size and higher use needs
- Allocate only half the circulation space compared with Ontario and New Brunswick
- Do not allocate space for a staff room or washrooms

IT'S TIME TO UPDATE BC'S SCHOOL DESIGN POLICY.
Student success requires the right school facilities.

Compare Circulation space

Circulation space includes hallways, walls, stairwells, community gathering spaces and entrance way.

In BC it must also include washrooms and a staff room.

