




COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT
Division of the Fire Marshal
Administrative Ruling



Number:	2023-1		
Subject:	Artwork and teaching materials in classrooms shall be limited on walls to not more than 50 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached.		
Reference:	<i>2021 International Fire Code, 807.5.2.3, As Amended</i>		
Effective Date:	07/26/2023	Issued By:	Michael Starke, Fire Inspector
Revision Date:	N/A	Revised By:	N/A
Approval Date:	07/26/23	Approved By:	Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal 

PURPOSE: To establish a definitive requirement specific to the net wall area of a classroom in respect to the 50 percent coverage for teaching and decorative materials.

SCOPE: This administrative ruling will apply to all new, existing and future classroom teaching and decorative material wall coverage requirements.

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE: International Fire Code 807.5.2.3 states that artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on walls of classrooms to not more than 50 percent of the specific wall area to which they are attached. There is no defined answer to whether this 50 percent wall area is gross, or net wall area. Many of the existing school classrooms and all of the new modern classrooms being built are utilizing oversized dry erase boards and oversized flat screen television sets mounted directly to the walls for teaching aides. These dry erase boards and television sets already take up over 50 percent of the specific gross wall area space before a teacher adds any decorative or teaching materials. Teachers, therefore, would have no additional space to place anything on the wall.

DECISION: In order to foster a learning environment and to allow the continued enhancement of student interaction, classroom wall area requirements will be as follows:

1. The remaining (net) wall space will be the deciding factor for the 50 percent wall area requirement.
2. The 50 percent wall area will be calculated for each wall independently.

3. The following will not be factored in as being included in the net wall coverage requirements:

- a.) Furniture, bookshelves, storage shelving.
- b.) Windows.
- c.) Doors.
- d.) Dry erase boards, chalkboards.
- e.) Wall mounted television sets.

NOTE:

- When dry erase boards and furniture are used to display or attach teaching or decorative materials, they are included in the 50 percent wall area coverage.
- Doors shall never be decorated.