



December 5, 2023

Mr. Greg Dunbar
Manager, District Facilities Branch
Division of District Support
Kentucky Department of Education
300 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Re: New Mercer County Elementary School
Harrodsburg, Kentucky
RTA 2229
BG 23-211

Dear Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Dunbar:

We are writing on behalf of the Mercer County School District to petition a waiver on the following items in accordance with 702 KAR 4:170, Part 6, waivers:

KDE Requirement	Reason for Waiver
1. All program spaces must meet or exceed the net areas indicated in the Facility Programming and Construction Criteria Planning Guide (702 KAR 4:170)	Owner has requested various deviations from the KDE requirements in order to tailor this building to their unique needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Computer classroom SF integrated into SF of Media Center/STEAM room○ Media Center Square Footage minimum requirement (deficient by approx. 1,930 SF)
2. A FMD classroom for special education must be equal to the area of a standard classroom and be connected to a private restroom with a handicapped water closet, lavatory, roll-in shower, and changing table. (702 KAR 4:170)	Owner requested for NO roll-in shower as part of the private restroom.
3. Resource rooms shall be one half the size of a standard classroom and must have 24 square feet of chalkboard and 24 square feet of tackboard, minimum. (702 KAR 4:170)	Resource rooms are undersized per owner request (180 SF in lieu of 400 SF) so that more can be provided throughout the building. Each pair of classrooms shares a Resource room.
4. Locate guidance office or guidance suite in a manner that is accessible to a corridor	Owner request to split admin suite and guidance suite into separate areas of the building.

without direct view to the administrative area housing either the principal or assistant principal. Provide a door between the administrative suite and the guidance suite if necessary for student privacy. (702 KAR 4:170)

<p>5. When a conference room is to be provided in the admin. suite, its location should be between the guidance office/suite and the admin. area. (702 KAR 4:170)</p>	<p>Owner request to keep main conference room in admin. suite and provide PLC room near guidance suite.</p>
<p>6. Records Room: Provide a fire-resistance rating of (2) hours. (702 KAR 4:170)</p>	<p>A records room is provided, but it is not rated for 2 hours as this is not required by any other agency having jurisdiction.</p>
<p>7. A bookroom located off corridor, with storage shelving, counter and rolling shutter or dutch door, for selling school supplies and other items may be desirable</p>	<p>Owner requested to omit this room.</p>
<p>8. Media Center: full-height wall shelving on perimeter walls should handle the bulk of book collection</p>	<p>Owner requested mobile book shelving to be located within the Media Center.</p>
<p>9. The Library/Media Center layout must include tables and chairs to seat no less than 60 students. (702 KAR 4:170)</p>	<p>Owner request to undersize Media Center. The size of the room will accommodate 1 class. The Media Center can open up to the adjacent Computer/STEAM room which will accommodate another class.</p>
<p>10. Media Center workroom shall have base cabinet with sink. (702 KAR 4:170)</p>	<p>Owner requested to omit</p>
<p>11. Provide a door between the media center office/workroom and the audio-visual storage room in addition to doors into the main library/media center space. (702 KAR 4:170)</p>	<p>Owner requested to omit</p>
<p>12. Media Center: entrance to the audio-visual storage room should be controlled by the librarian. Exit door to a corridor shall have "exit only" hardware. (702 KAR 4:170)</p>	<p>Owner requested to omit.</p>
<p>13. Kitchen: provide an exterior can wash area (or room accessible to the outside) with</p>	<p>Owner requested to omit the can wash. An exterior can wash is not required by any other agency having jurisdiction. Can wash walls create</p>

hot and cold water, and a floor drain adjacent to the kitchen. (702 KAR 4:170)	a safety and security concern because it is a potential hiding spot on the site, and the can wash is an ongoing maintenance item due to an exterior drain that needs to be maintained and monitored on a consistent basis. By not providing a can wash, the Kitchen area has less security/visibility concerns, requires less maintenance, and it will be a cost savings to the District.
14. Locate the art room on the North side of the building with a doorway to the exterior for a future art studio. (702 KAR 4:170)	Owner requested to move location so that it opens to the exterior Classroom space, and so it is on the main Corridor of the building as a showcase space.
15. Gymnasium Support Spaces: At the Elementary level, provide a coach/instructors office with a private toilet and shower. (702 KAR 4:170)	Owner request to omit the private toilet and shower. The PE office is provided.
16. Gymnasium: inserts in wood gymnasium floors for volleyball standards are prohibited. (702 KAR 4:170)	Owner requested volleyball sleeves so that this Gym can serve the entire District for both Basketball and Volleyball.
17. Classrooms: at Preschool classrooms, provide a separate vanity/sink with bubbler or cup-filler within the classroom space. (702 KAR 4:170)	Owner requested to omit the bubblers as this is not required by any other agency having jurisdiction. Sinks are provided.

Sincerely,



Beth Bauer, AIA, LEED AP
Associate | Project Manager
/bb

c: Jason Booher – Mercer County Schools Superintendent
Laith Ross, PE; Suzanne Irwin, AIA – RTA
Aaron Shultz; Collin Cain – CMTA
David Milam – Trace Creek
File 2229-1A
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