



CLASSROOM DECORATION RULES FOR TEACHERS

These violations are among the most frequently cited during state and local fire inspections.

Section 1 – Purely Decorative Items (IFC 807.1)

Applies to: Banners, fabric backdrops, themed curtains, pennants, tablecloths.

- ✓ **Decorative fabrics/materials** hung from walls or ceilings **MUST** meet NFPA 701 flame-spread standards.
- ✓ **Accepted proof:** Manufacturer's NFPA 701 hangtags on the item; OR
- ✓ **Flame-retardant spray** applied: Spray bottle AND application log must be on-site.
- ✓ **Exempt:** Student artwork and teaching materials do NOT need NFPA 701 certification.

Tip: *Fabric items with NO documentation = automatic violation.*

Section 2 – Artwork & Teaching Materials (IFC 807.4.3.2)

- ✓ **Inside your classroom:** No percentage limit on student artwork on teaching materials on walls.
- ✓ **In hallways and corridors:** Maximum 20% of wall area. Example: 10 ft. x 8 ft. hallway wall = 80 sq. ft. total; only 16 sq. ft. of materials allowed.
- ✓ **Keep materials** away from exit doors; use bulletin boards where possible.

Section 3 – Artificial Plants & Floral Décor (IFC 806.2)

- ✓ **ALL artificial plants, flowers, vines and wreaths** must be NFPA 701 certified.
- ✓ **Documentation required:** Manufacturer's tag or test certificate kept in school files.
- ✓ **Real/live plants** are not regulated under this section.

Tip: *Fake ivy, plastic wreaths and foam flowers are frequently cited violations.*

Section 4 – Your Classroom Décor (IFC 1030.6)

Door decoration is one of the TOP violations cited in Indiana school inspections.

- ✓ **Your door MUST look like a door:** Decorations cannot make it blend into the wall.
- ✓ **No draping** fabric, paper or materials OVER the door or door frame.
- ✓ **No mirrors** placed on/next to an exit door.
- ✓ **Door must open freely:** Nothing blocking or attached to the hinge side.
- ✓ **Decorations are allowed**, but the door must remain clearly recognizable as an exit.

Tip: *Leave the door's edges and handle area visible and unobstructed.*

Section 5 – Egress Paths and Aisles (IFC 1030.2)

- ✓ **All aisles and paths to exits** must be clear at all times, even temporarily.
- ✓ **Holiday displays and props** cannot be placed in student travel paths.
- ✓ **Storage cannot spill** into aisles from closets, shelves or under tables (even temporarily).

Section 6 – Combustibles Near Heat Sources (IFC 315.3)

- ✓ **Paper, cardboard and fabric decorations** must be kept away from wall and space heaters.
- ✓ **No combustible materials** stored touching or directly above any heat source.
- ✓ **Space heaters** required a clear 3-foot zone – no storage or decoration nearby.

Tip: *Art and drama classrooms are most frequently cited for this violation.*

PRE-INSPECTION CHECKLIST FOR TEACHERS

- ✓ All fabric decorations have NFPA 701 tag or flame-retardant spray documentation on-site
- ✓ Hallway/corridor displays cover no more than 20% of wall area
- ✓ Classroom door is clearly recognizable as an exit door
- ✓ No decorations draped over the door frame or blocking the door
- ✓ No artificial plants/flowers without NFPA 701 certification
- ✓ All classroom aisles and paths to exits are clear
- ✓ No combustible materials stored near heaters or heat sources