

## Section 305 *Educational*

### *Group E*

The Group E classification is assigned to schools, including primary, middle, and high schools, as well as day-care facilities. All Group E occupancies have three features in common: they are limited to the education, supervision, or personal care of persons at an educational level no higher than the 12th grade; the occupants are only in the facility for a limited time each day; and there are at least six persons being educated, supervised, or cared for at the same time.

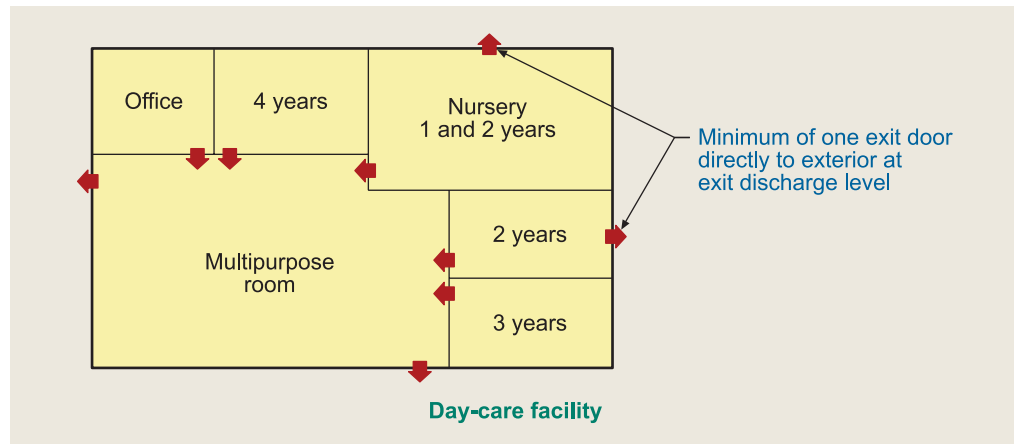
**Educational Group E.** The classification of school classrooms as Group E occupancies is typically a straightforward decision. It is also common to classify the administrative offices within a school building as an extension of the Group E function. Even the media center and lunchroom are generally viewed as just additional areas of the Group E occupancy, but what about other assembly spaces such as the gymnasium and auditorium? There is a unique feature involved in educational occupancies—the use of school buildings for assembly purposes outside the scope of the educational use. For example, many school auditoriums are used for community theater and other productions to which the public at large is invited. Also, the school gymnasium in many cases is used for neighborhood recreation activities or sporting events where all ages of occupants are present. It is not uncommon for school auditoriums and gymnasiums to be rented out to groups for special functions. When these additional uses are anticipated, there is adequate reason that they be classified as Group A occupancies. Therefore, on account of these multipurpose uses in many school buildings, it is necessary that the code requirements applicable to all expected uses be enforced in order to satisfy the safety requirements for each use. See the additional discussion in Section 303 on multi-purpose areas within educational facilities. **305.1**

**Accessory to places of religious worship.** It is common in buildings of religious worship that support spaces are provided in addition to the main worship hall. Such spaces typically include rooms for educational activities for persons of all ages, including children. Such educational areas are permitted to be classified as an extension of the Group A-3 worship hall rather than Group E, thus eliminating a mixed-occupancy condition. The limitation of the provision to rooms and auditoriums with occupant loads of less than 100 has limited, if any, application, as larger assembly spaces would typically be considered Group A-3 occupancies as well. This allowance is also addressed in Section 303.1.4. **305.1.1**

**Group E day-care facilities.** Day-care facilities considered as Group E occupancies are limited to those facilities where children are provided with educational, supervision, or personal care services for periods of less than 24 hours per day. Facilities that provide such services for adults more appropriately are typically assigned a Group I-4 classification. In addition, full-time care facilities cannot be considered Group E occupancies. The number of children housed in a day-care operation classified as Group E is not limited; however, where the number of children is five or fewer, the use is to be classified as part of the primary occupancy. **305.2**

The provisions of Section 305.2 only address care facilities for children over the age of 2½ years. However, the Group E classification is also applicable to facilities that provide infant/toddler care (2½ years of age or younger) where the conditions established in Section 308.6.1 are met. In such cases, the rooms housing the infants and/or toddlers must be located on the level of exit discharge, and each of such rooms must have an exit door directly to the exterior of the building. See Figure 305-1.

Figure 305-1  
Group E  
classification.



**305.2.1 Within places of religious worship.** It is common for child care to be available at places of religious worship during worship services and other activities. Nurseries, “cry rooms,” and other child care spaces are occupied during the same limited time period as the other activities within the worship facility. The occupancy classification of such spaces is permitted to be consistent with that of the main occupancy so that a mixed-occupancy condition need not be created. Although this allowance is limited to only those child care facilities where the children are older than 2½ years of age, a similar allowance for facilities caring for younger children and adults is found in Section 308.6.2.

**305.2.2 Five or fewer children.** Where five or fewer children are receiving day care within a building housing another use that can be considered the primary occupancy, the day-care operation is simply to be considered a portion of that occupancy. For example, a small day-care activity within an office environment would be classified as a portion of the Group B office use. Where there is no use in the building other than a day-care facility serving five or fewer children, it is assumed that a Group R-3 classification is to be applied. One of the listed Group R-3 uses in Section 310.5 is “care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons receiving care.”

**305.2.3 Five or fewer children in a dwelling unit.** Where care is being provided to no more than five children and such care occurs within a dwelling unit, the occupancy classification of the dwelling unit is not to be modified due to the presence of the child care activities. For example, child care for five or fewer children in a dwelling unit complying with the scope of the *International Residential Code*® (IRC®) is permitted with no additional requirements applicable to the day-care operation. An occupancy classification of Group R-2 would continue to be appropriate for such child care activities in a dwelling unit classified as a Group R-2 occupancy. It is intended that the presence of a child care use in a dwelling unit where the number of children receiving care does not exceed five will have no effect on the occupancy classification determination or the applicable code that is to be enforced.