



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Engineering and Support  
Center, Huntsville



# **ARMY STANDARD for SCHOOL AGE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AGES SIX TO TEN YEARS OF AGE**

<b>WING ADDITION</b>	<b>60 – 75 CAPACITY</b>
<b>SMALL</b>	<b>105 – 135 CAPACITY</b>
<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>150 – 180 CAPACITY</b>
<b>LARGE</b>	<b>195 – 225 CAPACITY</b>

## **ARMY CHILD YOUTH & SCHOOL (CYS) SERVICES FACILITY DESIGN**

**CATEGORY CODE: 74016**

**Prepared by:**

**US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center**

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HUNTSVILLE, AL 35808

**MAY 2024**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-9  
600 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600

DAIN-ZA (420-1nn1)

1 May 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Standards for School Age Care Facilities (Child Development Centers)  
(Facility Category Code 74016)

1. References. AR 420-1, 24 August 2012, Army Facilities Management.
2. The enclosed Army Standard for design and construction of School Age Care Facilities (Child Development Centers) is hereby approved for implementation. The standard applies to all Army School Age Care Facilities (Child Development Centers). This standard supersedes the Army CDC Standard dated 19 OCT 2004. The AFSC must approve any planned deviation from the Army Standards. Only the HQDA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 has authority to approve exceptions to this standard. Waivers from the Army Standard must be approved in accordance with AR 420-1.
3. The standard is mandatory for all School Age Facilities (Child Development Centers) Military Construction, Army (MCA) projects for FY26 and beyond. The new Army Standards provide criteria and guidance for the planning, programming, design, and construction of a School Age Care Facility (Child Development Center). These standards combined with the Standard Room-by-Room Design Criteria and the Standard Drawings provide the functional relationships needed to design the School Age Care Facility (Child Development Center) and the associated outdoor activity area.
4. The co-chairs for the Facility Design Team (FDT) for CDCs for school age children are Ms. Kristy Trahan, DAIN-PRY, [kristy.b.trahan.civ@army.mil](mailto:kristy.b.trahan.civ@army.mil); and Ms. Dawn Thompson, DAIN-PRY, [dawn.c.thompson.civ@army.mil](mailto:dawn.c.thompson.civ@army.mil). The FDT POC at HQ USACE is Ms. Susan Nachtigall, CEHQ, [susan.d.nachtigall@usace.army.mil](mailto:susan.d.nachtigall@usace.army.mil). The USACE Center of Standardization POC is Ms. Michael Johnson, CEHNC-EDC, 256-895-1409, [michael.r.johnson2@usace.army.mil](mailto:michael.r.johnson2@usace.army.mil).

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KEVIN VEREEN  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army  
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9

DAIN-ZA

SUBJECT: Army Standards for School Age Care Facilities (Child Development Centers) (Facility Category Code 74016)

DISTRIBUTION:

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Director, Army National Guard  
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## THE ARMY STANDARD FOR SCHOOL AGE CARE FACILITY (CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER)

### Description:

School Age Care (Child Development Center) Designs are required by the Army to support readiness of families by reducing the conflict between military mission workforce requirements and parental responsibilities. Availability of facilities, predictability of facility layout and design, and the consistency of facility standards across the Army and the Department of Defense have contributed to the Military child and youth programs being the model for the nation. The Army Standards define the mandatory components, functional capabilities, and relationships, and features and characteristics of the facility. School Age Care Facility (Child Development Centers) for children, have been developed to support the needs of school-age children. Additionally, designs provide the mandatory configuration, functional relationships, and associated outdoor activity space. The Army Standards for school age children are as follows and are based on Army Baseline Standards, DoD requirements for certification and the required standards for accreditation.

### Applicability:

- The Army Standard applies to Army facilities worldwide.
- All geographic districts shall incorporate the mandatory design criteria described herein in close coordination with the USACE designated Center of Standardization (COS) for Child and Youth Services.
- Army Standard Criteria or building blocks contained herein must be used to the maximum extent (including renovation or modernization projects) to maximize the benefits of the Army Facilities Standardization Program and preclude the need to develop separate Army standards and criteria.
- School Age Care Facility (Child Development Center) projects should be reviewed by the COS and Army Materiel Command (AMC) to ensure conformance with the Army Standard.
- The primary source for determining authorized allowances is the Real Property Planning and Analysis System (RPLANS).

### Waivers:

- Only the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 Installations has the authority to approve exceptions to the Army Standard.
- Approval for exceptions and waivers from Army Standards is initiated by the installation and must be requested in accordance with the AR 420-1, Appendix G, latest edition.
- Deviations based on gaps or shortfalls in addressing either doctrinal, functional, operational, or readiness requirements shall be forwarded through the Army chain of command to the Army Staff, HQ DA (ARSTAF) Functional Proponent Office of the Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 (ODCS G-9) prior to submission as an Army Standard waiver request to expedite the review process.
- All waiver request to the Army Standard requires CDC Center of Standardization (COS) conflict resolution prior to submission by the Garrison Commander.
- As the proponent, the ODCS, G-9 must validate and approve the request.
- Garrison Army Standard waiver request submissions must be received in sufficient time to allow the CDC Facility Design Team (FDT) to complete review and develop recommendations or courses

of action for the Army Facilities Standardization Committee (AFSC) to consider prior to implementation into project design.

- All G-9 approved waivers must be documented in installation master plans thereby serving as the installation's modified standards.

The Guidance Section, following the Mandatory Criteria table, provides instructions and definitions necessary for the application of the mandatory requirements contained in the tabular section of the Army Standard (AS). As such, use the guidance in conjunction with the AS Mandatory Criteria to ensure the intent and embedded functionality contained herein will meet the Army's mandatory requirements set forth by this standard.

### **Planning Criteria**

Army Standards are not intended to provide broader design criteria such as space allocation, functional layouts, or basic layouts more appropriately contained in the supporting and conforming Standard Design/Criteria. Nor are they intended to rigidly define collective facility authorizations more appropriately adjudicated by the Army Requirements Group.

This Army Standard, associated Standard Designs, and approved Army space design criteria are applied together in an iterative and co-dependent way to provide a standardized but adaptable approach to facility standardization. Each serves a different purpose to ensure mandatory functions and operability are provided uniformly and at the right size. The primary source for determining authorized allowances, in every instance, is the RPLANS which incorporates current criteria approved by the Army Requirements Group.

## **THE ARMY STANDARD FOR SCHOOL AGE CARE FACILITY (CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Mandatory Criteria</b>
<b>Central Counter/Reception Desk</b>	Must have central counter for clerk to view/observe the flow of children, parents, and visitors. The configuration and functional relationship between the main entry and the central counter/reception desk must be maintained for access control. Reception counter to be two tiered with no sharp edges and meet ABA. A small area designated behind the reception desk to serve as a rest area for sick children. Provide communication and data connectivity to include access control, duress alarm and central intercom system.
<b>Patron/Visitor Waiting Area</b>	Must have a waiting area for parents and visitors adjacent to the central counter/reception desk.
<b>Director's Office</b>	Must be located across from the central counter/reception desk and directly accessible from the waiting area. Provide communication and data connectivity.

<b>Training Area</b>	Must have a Training Area in all facilities except for the 60-75 capacity facility wing addition. Training area includes a minimum of two workstations. Provide electrical outlets, data ports and phone lines for these workstations. Provide communication and data connectivity.
<b>Staff Lounge</b>	Must be provided in all facilities except for in the 60-75 capacity wing addition. Provide a solid surface countertop, backsplash, with a single compartment sink with faucet. Provide GFCI electrical outlets above the counter for microwave and other appliances. Provide space for refrigerator and vending machine along with electrical outlets and water line to support ice making capability in freezer. Must provide space for staff to secure belongings (e.g., individual lockers secured to the wall). Provide communications and data connectivity.
<b>Staff/Visitor Toilets</b>	ABA compliant toilet accessible in the entry/lobby of the facility. These restrooms must be separate from those used by children.
<b>Computer Lab</b>	Must have computer lab strategically located adjacent to the entry area. Minimum of 525 square foot area for 15 children (35 sq ft per child). This space must accommodate computer devices for children with LAN drops and four-plex electrical outlets along the wall. In the 75-capacity wing addition and the 135-capacity facility this area dual functions as a Computer Lab and Homework Center.
<b>Homework Center</b>	Must provide for a self-contained area adjacent to the Computer Lab in the medium and large facilities. Provide a minimum of 525 square foot area for 15 children (35 sq. ft. per child). Provide LAN drops and four-plex electrical outlets along the wall.
<b>Activity Rooms</b>	Must provide activity rooms to be used for multiple activities such as arts/crafts, science, performing arts/drama, skill-building classes, club meetings, etc. Activity rooms to have a minimum of 675 square feet for 15 children each (45 sq. ft. per child).

<b>Open Activity Area(s) (Atrium)</b>	<p>Must have an open activity area adjacent to the Teaching Kitchen in the small, medium, and large capacity facilities. Each open area provides a 40 x 16 (640 square feet) or 45 square feet of space per child, 15 children.</p> <p>Circulation space: 8' to provide a minimum of 6' clear for circulation around activity areas to meet egress requirements. Clerestory windows provide natural lighting into the area. Skylights are not an acceptable means of meeting the natural lighting requirements.</p>
<b>Commercial Grade Kitchen</b>	<p>Commercial grade kitchen must be provided in the small, medium, and large capacity facilities. Kitchen must include a dry storage area. A pass-through window between the kitchen and teaching kitchen will be provided. Provide a workstation for Kitchen staff. Provide communication system to include data connectivity, intercom, and phone connection.</p>
<b>Teaching Kitchen</b>	<p>Must have a teaching kitchen in all CDCs for school-age children. Teaching kitchen must be adjacent to the commercial grade kitchen. Teaching kitchens may be incorporated into an activity room in the 75-child capacity wing addition.</p>
<b>Multi-Purpose Room</b>	<p>Provide a multi-purpose room with an electrically operated drop divider curtain. Provide unmarked athletic flooring. Athletic flooring must be multipurpose and resilient to wear to allow for multiple activities to take place (e.g., rollerblading, basketball, volleyball, etc.). Wood flooring is not acceptable. Provide a (5') high tempered safety glass mirror. Provide removable wall padding (mats) to serve as protection for children, acoustical attenuation, and to reduce wall maintenance. Removable mats to serve and dual function as use for gymnastics. Provide electrical outlets and ethernet ports.</p>
<b>Storage Rooms</b>	<p>A large storage and issue room adjacent to the multi- purpose room and accessible from the interior as well as exterior. An additional storage area is provided for the small, medium, and large child capacity facilities.</p>
<b>Boy/Girl Toilet Areas for Children</b>	<p>Separate boy/girl toilet areas for children in the program are required. One toilet and one sink per 18 school-age children is required.</p>
<b>Janitorial Closet</b>	<p>A janitorial closet is required and equipped with a low floor sink (mop basin), a place to store janitor's equipment and cleaning supplies, and a rack to promote hanging/air drying of mops.</p>

<b>Laundry Room</b>	<p>Must provide space for one washer and dryer. Provide a floor drain to prevent sewer gases from filtering into the facility. Provide counter for folding clothes with upper and lower cabinets for storage of laundry materials.</p>
<b>Vision Panels</b>	<p>Vision panels are interior windows where the actual glass is to extend from no more than 51" (AFF) to the height of the top of the door.</p> <p>Tempered safety glass shall be utilized.</p> <p>All doors, except adult toilets, must have a vision panel. Vision panels in doors to be a minimum of half-height glass.</p> <p>Additionally, activity room doors, administrative office doors and corridor doors leading to the outside shall be provided with a 12" wide sidelite.</p>
<b>Intercom System</b>	<p>Must have a two-way intercom system capable of allowing program staff to communicate with the main reception desk and other areas in the building.</p> <p>Main reception desk to have capability to contact all rooms with the exception of the mechanical, communication, electrical, storage and camera equipment room. System to enable front desk staff to contact rooms individually or all rooms simultaneously. Provide each playground with a weather-proof intercom unit.</p>
<b>Video Monitoring Security System/Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)</b>	<p>A separate room or area will be provided to store the equipment racks for the video monitor security system. Special consideration for heat build-up is required.</p>
<b>Commercial Enterprise Network (CEN)/Internet</b>	<p>Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity to the CEN will be provided by a commercial carrier.</p> <p>At a minimum a pair of single mode fiber optic cables between the Network Enterprise Center (NEC) and the facility is required. This requirement is in addition to any fiber optic cable that will be used for the NIPRNet.</p> <p>For external building connectivity to the NEC, fiber will be made available by the Government to the CEN commercial carrier.</p>



<b>Outdoor Activity Area</b>	<p>Outdoor activity space must be provided to support wide range of program activities. Outdoor activity space for children must consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard surface area</li> <li>• Open field area</li> <li>• Shaded area</li> <li>• Swings</li> <li>• Age-appropriate play structure</li> </ul> <p>Hose bibs, and outdoor electrical outlet and intercom. Outdoor Activity Area must be fenced.</p>
<b>Parking</b>	<p>Parking for patrons and staff is required. Minimum parking space requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wing Addition: 28 spaces</li> <li>• Small: 36 spaces</li> <li>• Medium: 43 spaces</li> <li>• Large: 51 spaces</li> </ul> <p>Provide a sidewalk that leads from the car directly to the front entry without crossing traffic lanes. School buses to deliver and pick up children curbside on sidewalk that leads directly into the facility. For OCONUS locations parking will be determined by need/demand in concert with local stakeholders.</p>
<b>Vehicular Circulation/Service Road/Drive</b>	<p>Must provide site entrances, exits, service drives and special circulation areas sized to accommodate the largest vehicle that uses the area. Strive to locate service roads and entrances to be out of view when looking at the main entry point of the building and one that minimizes or eliminates the need for children to traverse roads to get into the building. All vehicular pathways must be kept away from child and pedestrian pathways and outdoor activity areas.</p>
<b>Controlled Security Access</b>	<p>A buzzer security system, with manual override, must be installed to facilitate entry into the facility in accordance with AR 525-13.</p>
<b>HVAC</b>	<p>HVAC units will provide heating and air conditioning for the entire facility including, the mechanical and electrical rooms. A system with zoning flexibility must be provided to accommodate variations in usage (e.g., evenings, weekends, events).</p>
<b>Mechanical/Electrical Room</b>	<p>Mechanical room to open directly to the exterior of the building with no access to the interior space or direct access to the playground. Mechanical yard must be located away from the outdoor activity area for noise and environmental considerations.</p>

<b>CATV (Cable Television)</b>	Provide CATV outlets in the staff lounge and training room at a minimum.
<b>Communication Room</b>	Provide separate room for communications sized to meet the minimum NEC requirement for electrical boxes and connections.
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	Provide drinking fountains to the interior of the facility.
<b>DoD Building Code, UFC 1-200-01</b>	School Age Center shall be designed in compliance with UFC 1-200-02, High Performance and Sustainable Building Requirements.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Youth Centers shall be designed to meet current sustainable development and design policy requirements as established by the Department of the Army.

### **GUIDANCE**

**Utilities** – All utilities, except storm water, will be routed from the new structure underground to the existing source.

**Landscaping** – Irrigation of turf and significant landscaping may be required in geographical area which are arid. Landscaping is an important tool in the implementation of Force Protection measures. Landscaped earth berms shall be used to provide an attractive natural barrier. Shrubs, bushes, trees, flowers, etc. used around the CDC and outdoor activity area shall be evaluated for potential hazard or toxicity. No toxic chemicals or herbicides shall be used to clear the site of unwanted irrigation.

**Interior Color Scheme** – Interior colors will be low maintenance neutrals to mitigate visual clutter and provide a backdrop for colorful artwork.

**Life Safety** - Army Fire Safety Program requirements exceed National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code requirements. The Army decision to employ more rigorous facility fire protection requirements in some areas was made to offset more stringent staff/child ratios established by NFPA 101 and the Army Regulation 608-10 Child Development Services (Section V Compliance Area: Child Development Center Fire Prevention C-66. Compliance. The building fire protection systems shall be designed in accordance with the applicable standards contained in the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 3-600-01, Fire Protection Engineering for Facilities, and NFPA 101 (Life Safety Code). A complete automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in accordance with UFC 3-600-01 and NFPA 13. Fire Extinguishers shall be placed in the structures in accordance with NFPA 101 and NFPA 10. The fire alarm system shall be designed in accordance with NFPA 72, which will provide pull stations at each exterior exit door, textual (voice) audible and visual (strobes) notification devices and smoke detectors located throughout the child development center. Placement of the Local Enunciator Panel (LOC) shall be placed at the entrance of the facility. The main Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) shall be placed in the Mechanical Room of the facility, with keys to access the rooms and reset panels to be placed in the required Knox Box at the main entrance of the facility. Where possible the Mass Notification System (UFC 4-021-01) shall be integrated with the fire alarm system.

Signage – The facility can be identified as a “School-Age Center”. The installation or community name or geographic location of the facility may be used for public identification purposes. Location of sign is a site-adapt issue. According to the approved Army Installation Design Guide Standards, building number will not be displayed/located on the outside of the building.

Design – Design requirements may be modified as needed to comply with Host Nation (OCONUS) laws, codes, and generally accepted construction standards where practices are functionally equivalent and equal to or more stringent than US criteria (i.e., wall assembly types, fixtures mounting, finishes, etc.).

Standard Design Criteria Child Development Centers generally for Children Ages 6 – 10 Years School Age  
– Use the latest version of the Army Standard Design Criteria Room by Room Descriptions, which includes the Finish Schedule, material specifications and design details. This information is available at <https://mrsi.erdc.dren.mil/cos/hnc>, the USACE Huntsville Center of Standardization website.