



**SCHOOL DISTRICT PALM BEACH COUNTY
BUILDING CODE SERVICES
CODE INTERPRETATION**

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Subject Title: Administrative Suite-Corridor Walls

Applicable Code: FBC, 2020, 7th Edition

Date Issued: March 23, 2005

Revised: April 16, 2007
May 19, 2023

Question: In Group E, are corridor walls in the administrative suite required to be fire resistance rated or constructed as smoke partitions?

Answer: No, under the following conditions:

- Building equipped with an approved fully automatic fire sprinkler system.
- No classroom or similar type room normally subject to student occupancy uses the corridor as part of the required exit access, and the room has access door directly to exterior or other fire rated exit access corridor.
- The administrative corridor shall be continuous from the point of entry to an exit.
- T1020.1 Occupancy E, no corridor wall fire resistance rating with sprinkler system.
- 453.8.1.1 Administrative offices located within educational facilities are not separate occupancies.

Comment:

FBC 453.8.1.1 Indicates that support spaces such as media centers, administrative offices, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and kitchens within educational facilities are not separate occupancies. Thus, meaning a fire rated separation is not required between these spaces and the classrooms. With this in mind, we do not require fire separation between these spaces, but we do allow for these spaces to form a suite within the building. That suite may or may not have circulation corridors, if they do have corridors they are not required to have a fire rating when they meet the conditions stated above.