

Overview of the Condemnation/Demolition Process

A school building must be condemned anytime the regional superintendent feels that the building is in such a state that occupancy by students and personnel will, without question, jeopardize their lives. The regional superintendent must also request the assistance of the Illinois Department of Public Health and/or State Fire Marshal to confirm the hazardous condition of the school building.

Section 105 ILCS 5/3-14.22 of the School Code states:

Sec. 3-14.22 *Condemnation of school buildings.* To request the Department of Public Health, the State Fire Marshal or the State Superintendent of Education to inspect public school buildings and temporary school facilities which appear to him to be unsafe, unsanitary or unfit for occupancy. These officials shall inspect such buildings and temporary school facilities and if, in their opinion, such buildings or temporary facilities are unsafe, unsanitary or unfit for occupancy, shall state in writing in what particular they are unsafe, unsanitary or unfit for occupancy. Upon the receipt of such statement the regional superintendent shall condemn the building or temporary facility and notify the school board thereof in writing and the reasons for such condemnation. He shall also notify, in writing, the board of school trustees that the school or temporary facility so condemned is not kept as required by law.

The provisions of this Section shall not preclude inspection of school premises and buildings pursuant to Section 9 of the Fire Investigation Act [425 ILCS 25/9], although not requested as herein above provided. (Source P.A. 84-25; 87-984, § 1.)

Some of the reasons for condemnation of a school building are fire, natural disaster and extremely poor maintenance. To condemn a building does not mean that the building will be demolished. There are times when the district will be able to bring the condemned building back into compliance with the Health/Life Safety Code.