

**ACTION ITEM**

**Date:** April 23, 2019  
**To:** Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
**From:** Ellen Crispino  
Business Manager/CSBO  
**Subject:** Approve the Harper 2019 Variance for Fire Protection System and Resolution

**Proposed Action by Board of Education**

Adopt the attached resolution approving the variance for the Harper Fire Protection System; and, approve the attached Application for Approval of Variance as written.

**Background**

Based on occupancy, Illinois School Code requires a voice evacuation fire alarm system for the three new classrooms to be constructed at Harper Elementary School in 2019. The existing building has a traditional horn/strobe notification system. It could be confusing to students to be in a building with two different fire alarm systems, and it would be expensive to replace the entire fire alarm system in the existing building. Code does not require sprinklers in the Harper addition, however, sprinklers can be considered superior protection for occupants.

The Administration recommends adoption of the attached resolution and approval of the life safety variance, in order to provide sprinklers in place of the voice evacuation fire alarm system in Harper Elementary School's three classroom addition.

**Attachments:** Resolution  
Application for Approval of Variance  
Architect's certification letter

**Recommended for approval  
by the Board of Education**



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**Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent

# APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A VARIANCE

**REFERENCE:** Except as limited by subsection (b)(3) of Section 180.70 23 Illinois Administrative Code, when a requirement or standard set forth in any code incorporated in 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 180 can be satisfied by an alternative means, a school board may apply for a variance as defined in Section 180.30 of this Part.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION <b>WILMETTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 39 615 LOCUST ROAD WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091</b>	NAME OF CONTACT <b>MS. ELLEN CRISPINO, BUSINESS MANAGER/CSBO</b>	PHONE NUMBER <b>847.512.6000</b>
	COUNTY <b>COOK</b>	FAX NUMBER <b>847.256.1782</b>

NAME OF FACILITY WHICH VARIANCE IS BEING SOUGHT:  
**HARPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

1. Indicate the specific rule from which a variance is being sought:

**IBC 2015, CHAPTER 9 Fire Protection Systems, 907.2.3 GROUP E: "...occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system..."**

2. Describe the variance being sought:

**Request relief from installing voice evacuation system at new addition (Group E occupancy with occupant load greater than 100).**

3. Describe proposed alternative:

**Propose installation of extension to building's horn/strobe notification system for new fully-sprinklered addition.**

4. Describe the basis upon which the board of education is seeking the variance:

**Installation of a sprinkler system for the new addition (which is not required) can be considered a superior protection to occupants.**

5. Indicate the date upon which the board of education adopted a resolution to seek the variance:

6. Include by attachment, the Architect/Engineer's certification, documenting in what particular respects the proposed alternative provides performance or protection equal or superior to that provided by the code requirements from which a variance is sought.

## **AUTHORIZATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date      Signature of President, Local Board of Education*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date      Signature of Secretary, Local Board of Education*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date      Signature of District Superintendent*

## **RECOMMENDATION BY REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT:**

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date      Signature of Regional Superintendent*



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April 16, 2019

Ms. Ellen Crispino, Business Manager  
Wilmette Public Schools District 39  
615 Locust Road  
Wilmette, IL 60091

**Re: STR #18065, Harper Elementary School Addition & Renovations  
Application for Approval of a Variance – Fire Alarm Notification System**

Dear Ms. Crispino,

For the above-referenced project, the applicable building code requires that the fire alarm system for the new addition utilize a voice/alarm notification system.

A variance is sought to extend the building's existing horn/strobe notification system, in lieu of a separate voice/alarm notification system, and to provide a fully-sprinklered building addition. The new addition is considered a separate structure with a fire wall and fire-rated doors at the corridors. The total area of the addition is less than 7,200 SF, and therefore, is not required by state statute to be sprinklered.

STR, our engineers, and the District have had various correspondences with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), North Cook Intermediate Service Center (NCISC, Regional Office of Education for northern Cook County Illinois), and the Wilmette Fire Department. Providing a single notification system by extending the building's existing horn/strobe system with a new sprinkler system is considered a superior solution and protection to occupants. It also eliminates possible confusion for occupants as well as emergency responders caused by two separate notification systems.

Let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,  
STR Partners LLC

Sandra Moon, AIA, LEED AP  
Senior Project Manager

cc: Dan Seibert, Mechanical Services Associates Corp.  
Colby Lewis, STR