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MEMORANDUM

TO: Public School (K-12) Officials and Design Professionals
FROM: Floyd Farmer, PE, ABA State Engineer 
DATE: May 26, 2011
SUBJECT: ACT 1006 of 2011

Act 1006 amended various provisions of Arkansas Code 9 Title 6 concerning Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation and becomes effective on July 27, 2011. Section 3 of this Act amends Ark. Code Ann. §6-20-1407 concerning submittal of construction plans and specifications for accessibility reviews.

The revised laws require review of plans and specifications for the construction of public school facility to be divided between the Arkansas State Fire Marshal's Office and the Arkansas Building Authority Design Review Section. The State Fire Marshal will be responsible for review of additions or renovations of existing public school facilities. The Arkansas Building Authority will be responsible for review of only new public school facilities.

ABA currently has the responsibility to review additions to public school facilities. In order to allow ABA to complete these reviews prior to the July 27, 2011 effective date of Act 1006, ABA will stop accepting submittals involving additions to K-12 public schools at the close of business on July 15th, 2011. If you have an addition project that must be approved by ABA prior to July 27 and you are unable to make the submittal prior to July 15, contact me at the number below for guidance.

Therefore effective July 27, 2011, ABA Design Review will accept only new facility construction projects for review. A new public school facility means any public school building or space, including related areas such as physical plant and grounds that is used for any purpose including but not limited to; an extracurricular activity; an organized physical activity; prekindergarten education; district administration; delivery of instruction to public school students that is an integral part of an adequate education.

To minimize delays in final approval of your project, please ensure that your project plans are submitted to the appropriate office for review in a timely manner. If you have questions regarding the applicability of your project for ABA review, please call me at (501)-682-5563 or email me at ffarmer@aba.state.ar.us

END

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