

## A Message from Systemwide Safety Programs

### Common Fire Safety Violations in Our Schools

The photos below show fire safety violations commonly seen in our schools. Please use the information below to ensure your facilities are free of these hazards.

#### 1. Excessive artwork and paper materials on walls and exit doors

- Artwork and teaching materials may not exceed 50 percent of the wall area in halls and classrooms (20 percent for buildings without fire sprinklers).
- No papers, posters, or other combustible items may be attached to classroom or building exit doors.



#### 2. Improper use of power strips and extension cords

- Extension cords are for temporary use only.
- Cords may not be run through doors, windows, ceilings, walls, or walkways (where they can be a trip hazard).
- Appliances (refrigerators, coffee makers, microwave or toaster ovens, etc.) may not be plugged into power strips or extension cords.
- Extension cords and power strips may not be attached in series and may not be used to overload wall outlets.



#### 3. Materials storage in halls, stairwells, and closets

- Halls and stairwells may not be used for storage, especially of combustible materials.
- Halls must have at least a 6-foot wide clearance to permit safe building exit in an emergency.
- Mechanical, HVAC, and electric closets may not be used for storage.



#### 4. Blocked emergency exits and utility shut-off valves/switches

- All exits must be clear at all times, and exit signs must be in good working order.
- A 36-inch clear path must be maintained in front of all electrical, mechanical, and HVAC equipment.
- Emergency exit doors should be inspected daily to ensure proper operation.
- Emergency exit doors should not be propped open.



If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Systemwide Safety Programs, Department of Facilities Management, at 240-314-1070.