

1 and electrical codes. No local board of education shall contract for more money than is
2 made available for the erection of a new building. However, this subsection shall not be
3 construed so as to prevent boards of education from investing any money in buildings
4 that are being constructed pursuant to a continuing contract of construction as provided
5 for in G.S. 115C-441(c). All contracts for buildings shall be in writing and all buildings
6 shall be inspected, received, and approved by the local superintendent and the architect
7 before full payment is made therefor. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit boards of
8 education from repairing and altering buildings with the help of janitors and other
9 regular employees of the board.

10 In the design and construction of new school buildings and in the renovation of
11 existing school buildings that are required to be designed by an architect or engineer
12 under G.S. 133-1.1, the local board of education shall participate in the planning and
13 review process of the Energy Guidelines for School Design and Construction that are
14 developed and maintained by the Department of Public Instruction and shall adopt local
15 energy-use goals for building design and operation that take into account local
16 conditions in an effort to reduce the impact of operation costs on local and State
17 budgets. In the design and construction of new school facilities and in the repair and
18 renovation of existing school facilities, the local board of education shall consider the
19 placement and design of windows to use the climate of North Carolina for both light
20 and ventilation in case of power shortages. A local board shall also consider the
21 installation of solar energy systems in the school facilities whenever practicable.

22 In the case of any school buildings erected, repaired, or equipped with any money
23 loaned or granted by the State to any local school administrative unit, no board of
24 education shall invest any money until it has (i) developed plans based upon a
25 consideration of the State Board's facilities guidelines, (ii) submitted these plans to the
26 State Board for its review and comments, ~~and~~ (iii) reviewed the plans based upon a
27 consideration of the comments it receives from the ~~State Board~~ School Planning Section
28 of the Department of Public Instruction as to structural and functional soundness, safety,
29 and sanitation, and (iv) ensured that the proposed construction or renovation complies
30 with all applicable requirements of the North Carolina State Building Code and of local
31 building and electrical codes.

32"

33 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-530(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

34 "(a) Local boards of education may enter into operational leases of real or
35 personal property for use as school buildings or school facilities. Operational leases for
36 terms of less than three years shall not be subject to the approval of the board of county
37 commissioners. Operational leases for terms of three years or longer, including periods
38 that may be added to the original term through the exercise of options to renew or
39 extend, are permitted if all of the following conditions are met:

40 ...

1 (4) Any construction, repair, or renovation of the property is in
2 compliance with the requirements of ~~G.S. 115C-521(e) relating to~~
3 ~~energy guidelines.~~G.S. 115C-521.

4 For purposes of this section, an operational lease is defined according to generally
5 accepted accounting principles.

6 "

7 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001, and applies to
8 projects submitted to the School Planning Section of the State Board of Education on or
9 after that date.