



Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools (NE-CHPS)

Summary of Changes | May 2021

The Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools (NE-CHPS) version 3.2, updated 2019, has now become NE-CHPS version 4.0 which entails significant changes to the following sections: Zero Energy Capable, Design for Adaptation, Superior Energy Performance, Biophilic & Responsive Design, Safer Schools By Design, and Low Radon. This new version also includes updates to standards from IECC 2015 to IECC 2018 and from ASHRAE 62.1 and 90.1 2016 to 2019, the removal of the operations report card, and updated resources and other references. Key updates are summarized below.

The intent of the new Design for Adaptation section is to encourage practices that plan for changing climate conditions over the building's lifespan. This criterion outlines instructions for completing a climate vulnerability assessment, adaptation measures, and passive habitability characteristics in order to ensure the long-term durability of a school. We updated the Biophilic & Responsive Design section to reflect language from US-CHPS that addresses design elements promoting a sense of calmness and well-being. The purpose of Responsive Design is to create safe and calming spaces that contribute to a sense of community, and to allow for students of all abilities, backgrounds, and perspectives to learn together.

To further enable community decarbonization, we updated the Superior Energy Performance and Zero Energy Capable criteria. The Zero Energy Performance Index (zEPI) table for Superior Energy Performance was updated to align with the 2018 IECC. The Zero Energy Capable section gained a whole new compliance pathway modeled after the Massachusetts Energy Zero [\(MA EZ\) Code](#), recently developed by NEEP to support the state's goals. One school district is already planning to use the MA EZ code to build a zero energy school.

Other updates include:

- II 8.0 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design section was renamed Safer Schools By Design and the entire section was rewritten to shift emphasis from phrases like “detering crime” and “reducing fear” to phrases like “increasing visibility” and “fostering a sense of safety.”
- II 9.1 Innovation gained a new recommendation for the installation of water bottle filling stations.
- OM 3.0 Performance Benchmarking implementation options were updated to allow use of utility, state, municipal, or third-party tools for benchmarking.
- OM 4.0 Systems Maintenance Plan combined with OM 4.1 High Performance Operations and includes updated implementation and documentation instructions in alignment with US-CHPS.
- EQ 1.0 HVAC Design was slightly updated with design review requirements from US-CHPS, a notable update of reducing distance between contamination source and air intake from 25 ft. to 10 ft. per ASHRAE guidance.
- EQ 8.1 Low Radon was updated to include more detailed guidance for new and existing schools to build and retrofit with radon-reducing materials and testing practices.