

## Bus Garage MN State Code Information

**\*\*Disclaimer:** This is the opinion of the Code Official of the City of Crookston for information only, based on MN Rule and MN Statute. The State of MN will have Jurisdiction over this project when it commences, and has final interpretation of codes and regulations.

*Q: Does the School District need to hire an Architect, even on a pre-engineered building (i.e. Morton, etc)?*

A: Yes. Unless it can be proven that it meets the exemptions in MN Rule 1800.5200, which this building would not, it must have an Architect involved in the design and code compliance of the structure(s).

*Q: What type of construction can the building be?*

A: This depends on the size of the building, the presence of a sprinkler system, frontage of the building, etc. There is no clear answer on this until a size of building is determined and the location of the building is determined (ref. table 503 of the MN State Building Code). Based on the intended use and the amount of buses that must be stored, a pole structure may not meet the minimum code requirements. There is much confusion with this, as Ag building pole structures intended for Agricultural use are exempt from the building code. A bus garage, regardless of location, would not fall under this exemption. This is why Agricultural buildings are quite a bit cheaper than one that must be built to MN Code standards. Likewise, depending on the use, sprinkler and construction types change, such as a private garage for storage versus a storage building for commercial vehicles, such as buses.

Some ways around this would be to have multiple buildings restricted to a certain size if a cheaper type of construction is desired.

*Q: Does the building need to be sprinklered?*

A: Per MN State Building Code, section 903.2.9.1, a repair garage for buses greater than 5,000 sf of space must have a sprinkler system, and per section 903.2.10.1 any storage area for buses greater than 5000 sf of area must have a sprinkler system.

*Q: If the building is outside of City Limits, does it need to follow the same codes as it does within city limits?*

A: Yes. The State adopted the MN State Building Code as a state wide code. Not all areas are required to enforce the code. However, since it is a public school building, it falls under the State of MN jurisdiction and codes will be enforced on this project regardless of location.