Defining Assembly Spaces Accessory to Educational Occupancies

Code: 2012 Building Code
Section: 303.1

Date: January 19, 2015

Question:
Are assembly spaces that are accessory to educational occupancies limited to 10% of the floor of the building in order to be considered “accessory” for purposes of applying exception #4 of Section 303.1?

Answer:
No. The term “accessory” in Exception #4 is used to describe how the assembly occupancy must function. The intent is to ensure that the assembly occupancy is not operating independent of the Group E occupancy. A building containing the assembly occupancy must, therefore, also contain a Group E occupancy. The Group E occupancy must utilize more than 50% of the building area for the assembly area to be considered “accessory” to the Group E occupancy.

Keywords:
Gyms, gymnasiums, cafeterias, lunchrooms, auditoriums, library, libraries, schools