

# Chapter 19

## Portable Buildings

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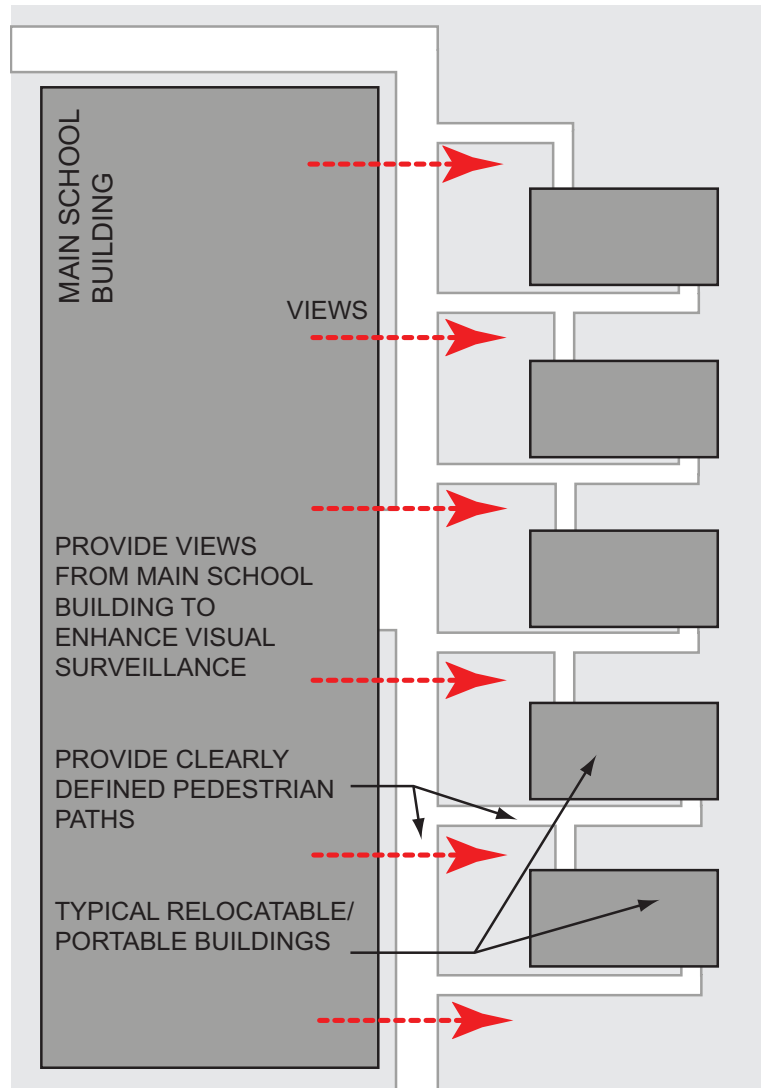
Portable buildings are often used as additional classrooms on overcrowded campuses. These buildings present security concerns similar to those of the main school building. The following chapter outlines some design considerations for portable facilities.

### Placement

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Portable buildings are placed in available spaces, sometimes away from the rest of the school. In some cases, they must be a certain distance from the main building to comply with fire codes. In other cases, districts may place them at the rear of the campus due to being less attractive than the main building. When locating portable buildings:

- Gather buildings within security fencing.
- Keep buildings close to the main building so students are not forced to walk long distances between them (see Figure 19.1).
- Keep buildings sufficiently separated from one another and from permanent structures to meet fire code requirements.



**Figure 19.1** *Plan diagram of relocatable/portable buildings.*

Adapted from Florida Safe School Design Guidelines: Strategies to Enhance Security and Reduce Vandalism, Florida Department of Education, 2003

## Surveillance

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- Provide clearly defined and unambiguous routes to and from both main and portable buildings.
- Provide windows from the main building overlooking pedestrian paths.
- Design lighting to reinforce natural surveillance.
- Provide windows or fisheye viewers to permit people inside the classroom to see the exterior.

## Security

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- Run cables (power, networking, communications) in a vandalism-resistant manner, such as underground.
- Eliminate spaces for hiding people, contraband, weapons, or incendiary or explosive devices.
- Use see-through fencing in high-risk locations because nothing can be hidden behind it.
- Use steel doors and a keyed lockset which can be locked and unlocked from inside the classroom.
- Protect windows on portable buildings with grates to discourage unauthorized entry.
- Use sliding windows permitting lift-and-slide protection against burglars.
- Provide appropriate communications connections between the portable buildings and school administration.
- Monitor isolated portable buildings via CCTV.
- Restrict access beneath portable buildings with grates, fencing, siding, or other material (see Figure 19.2).



**Figure 19.2** *Extend siding to the ground (or screen spaces underneath) to prevent access to relocatable/portable buildings.*

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