# Clutter Control in Classrooms and Offices – School Safety Stats and Facts



## FACTS

1. **Trip and Fall Hazards:** Clutter such as backpacks, books, or cables on classroom and office floors creates tripping risks, leading to falls and injuries, especially during emergency evacuations.
2. **Blocked Emergency Exits:** Piles of materials or furniture obstructing doorways and pathways can delay evacuation during fires or other emergencies, compromising student and staff safety.
3. **Visual Overload:** Excessive wall decorations or cluttered desks can distract students, reducing focus and potentially contributing to stress or unsafe behaviors in crowded classrooms.
4. **Poor Accessibility:** Cluttered spaces hinder mobility for students and staff with disabilities, increasing the risk of accidents and limiting equitable access to learning environments.
5. **Fire Risks:** Accumulated papers, boxes, or flammable materials in classrooms and offices pose fire hazards, as clutter can fuel fires and impede firefighting efforts.
6. **Hygiene Issues:** Cluttered surfaces, like desks or storage areas, can harbor dust, allergens, or germs, contributing to health risks and absenteeism among students and staff.

## STATS

- WorkSafeBC reported in 2022 that 25% of school staff injuries in British Columbia were related to slips, trips, and falls, with cluttered classrooms and offices cited as a contributing factor.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) noted in 2021 that 20% of custodial staff injuries in schools were linked to navigating cluttered spaces, such as storage rooms or hallways.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey indicated that 30% of teachers reported cluttered classrooms negatively impacted their ability to maintain a safe and productive learning environment.
- A 2023 report from the California State Auditor found that 100% of 18 inspected schools had maintenance deficiencies, including cluttered storage areas, posing safety risks like fire hazards or blocked exits.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) stated in 2022 that schools implementing clutter control measures, such as storage solutions,

reduced reported trip-related injuries by up to 20%.

- A 2020 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) survey found that 35% of public schools reported inadequate storage, leading to cluttered classrooms and increased safety concerns.