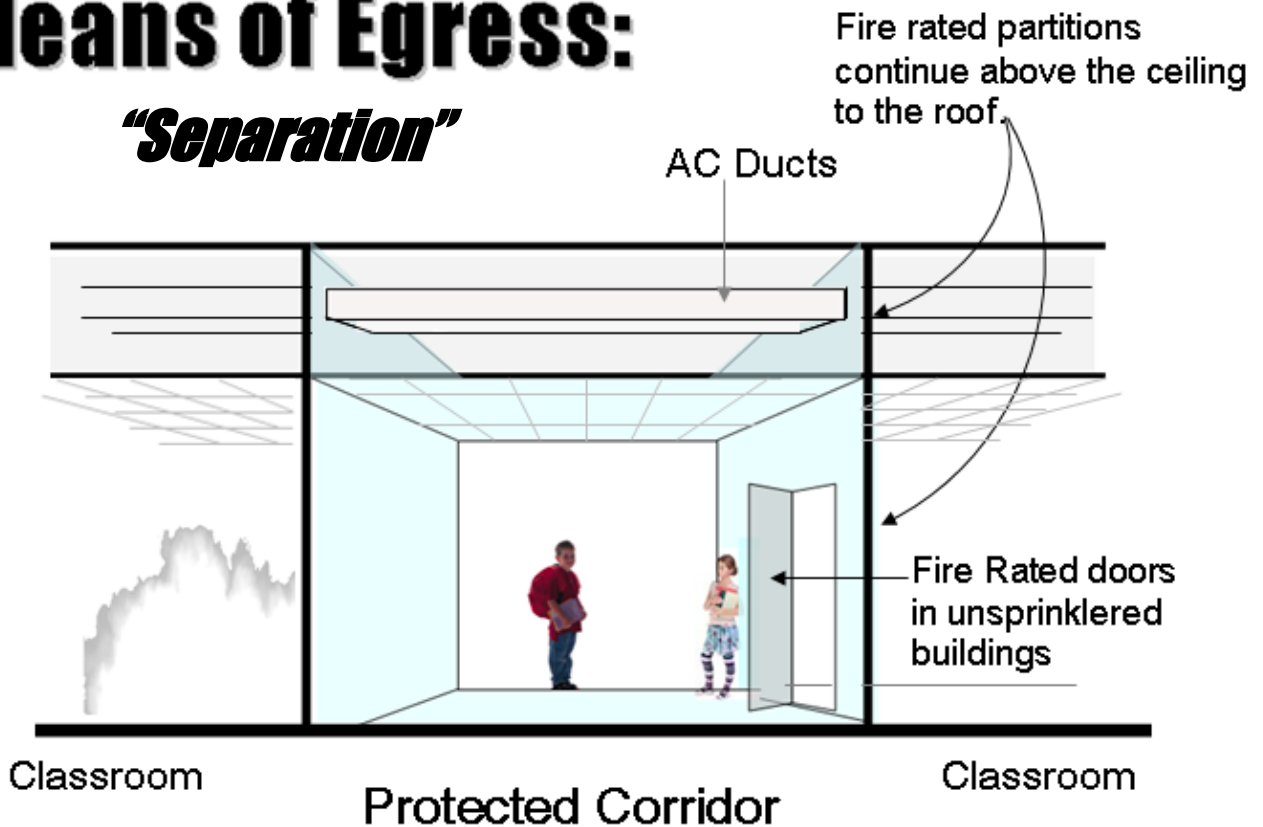


# Means of Egress:

## *"Separation"*



The "Protection" in a fire rated corridor is provided by partitions and doors that separate escaping occupants from surrounding fire or smoke. The partitions must continue from floor, through the ceiling, to the roof to intercept fire and smoke that could rise above the ceiling and descend into the corridor. That's why it's so important that the partitions above the ceiling maintain the separation for the entire length of the protected corridor until occupants can escape. Any penetrations in the concealed partitions above the ceiling are breaks in the separation that must be designed to maintain the protection. An example would be AC ducts passing through the concealed partitions that automatically close by activation of dampers.

The partitions must continue since a typical suspended ceiling with loose 2 x 4 panels in a metal suspension grid will not provide the continuous, solid separation provided by partitions. An alternative solution is to have a solid ceiling assembly or "horizontal wall" that, with the partitions, create a safe "tunnel" for escape. The partitions in that case could stop at the ceiling and there would be no partitions required in the attic. In either case maintaining the integrity of concealed walls in the attic, or a horizontal wall, will be difficult over the life of the building. Even so this is required to maintain "protection" for escaping occupants in a means of egress corridor.