

Business and Non-instructional Operations

Environmental Safety

The Governing Board recognizes its obligation to provide a safe and healthy environment at school facilities for students, staff, and community members. The Superintendent or designee shall regularly assess school facilities to identify environmental health risks and shall develop strategies to prevent and/or mitigate environmental hazards. He/she shall consider the proven effectiveness of various options, anticipated short-term and long-term costs and/or savings to the district, and the potential impact on staff and students, including the impact on student achievement and attendance.

- (cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)
- (cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)
- (cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
- (cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)
- (cf. 3516.3 - Earthquake Emergency Procedure System)
- (cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)
- (cf. 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety)
- (cf. 5142 - Safety)
- (cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

Such strategies shall focus on maximizing healthy indoor air quality; monitoring the quality of outdoor air and adjusting outdoor activities as necessary; reducing exposure to vehicle emissions; minimizing exposure to lead and mercury; reducing the risk of unsafe drinking water; inspecting and properly abating asbestos; appropriately storing, using, and disposing of potentially hazardous substances; using effective least toxic pest management practices; reducing the risk of foodborne illness; and addressing any other environmental hazards identified during facilities inspections.

- (cf. 3510 - Green School Operations)
- (cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)
- (cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)
- (cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)
- (cf. 3516.5 - Emergency Schedules)
- (cf. 3540 - Transportation)
- (cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)
- (cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)
- (cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
- (cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)
- (cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety)
- (cf. 5142.2 - Safe Routes to School Program)
- (cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)
- (cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School)
- (cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

In developing strategies to promote healthy school environments, the Superintendent or designee may consult and collaborate with local environmental protection agencies, health agencies, water boards, and other community organizations.

- (cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

Environmental Safety (Cont.)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the district's maintenance and facilities staff, bus drivers, food services staff, teachers, and other staff as appropriate with professional development regarding their responsibilities in implementing strategies to improve and maintain environmentally safe and healthy schools.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Board, staff, parents/guardians, students, and/or governmental agencies, as appropriate, if an environmental hazard is discovered at a school site. The notification shall provide information about the district's actions to remedy the hazard and may recommend health screening of staff and students.

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17002 Definition of "good repair"

17070.75 Facilities inspection

17582 Deferred maintenance fund

17590 Asbestos abatement fund

17608-17614 Healthy Schools Act of 2000, least toxic pest management practices

32080-32081 Carbon monoxide devices

32240-32245 Lead-Safe Schools Protection Act

48980.3 Notification of pesticides

49410-49410.7 Asbestos materials containment or removal

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CODE

11401-12408 Pest control operations and agricultural chemicals

13180-13188 Healthy Schools Act of 2000, least toxic pest management practices

GOVERNMENT CODE

3543.2 Scope of representation; right to negotiate safety conditions

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

105400-105430 Indoor environmental quality

113700-114437 California Retail Food Code, sanitation and safety requirements

116277 Lead testing of potable water at schools and requirements to remedy

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

14010 Standards for school site selection

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8

337-339 Hazardous substances list

340-340.2 Occupational safety and health, rights of employees

1528-1537 Construction safety orders; exposure to hazards

5139-5223 Control of hazardous substances

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

2025 Retrofitting of diesel school buses

2480 Vehicle idling

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 17

35001-36100 Lead abatement services

Environmental Safety (Cont.)

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

64670-64679 Lead and copper in drinking water

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24

915.1-915.7 California Building Standards Code; carbon monoxide devices

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 7

136-136y Use of pesticides

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 15

2601-2629 Control of toxic substances

2641-2656 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1758 Food safety and inspections

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 40

141.1-141.723 Drinking water standards

745.61-745.339 Lead-based paint standards

763.80-763.99 Asbestos-containing materials in schools

763.120-763.123 Asbestos worker protections

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Indoor Air Quality: Governing Board Actions for Creating Healthy School Environments, Policy Brief, July 2008

Asthma Management in the Schools, Policy Brief, March 2008

Food Safety Requirements, Fact Sheet, October 2007

Sun Safety in Schools, Policy Brief, July 2006

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

School Site Selection and Approval Guide, 2000

Indoor Air Quality, A Guide for Educators, 1995

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Report to the Legislature: Lead Hazards in California's Public Elementary Schools and Child Care Facilities, April 1998

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY: AIR RESOURCES BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Facts about Truck and Bus Regulation School Bus Provisions, rev. March 22, 2011

CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Frequently Asked Questions about Lead Testing of Drinking Water in California Schools;

Updated for Assembly Bill 746/Health and Safety Code 116277, December 15, 2017

DIVISION OF THE STATE ARCHITECT PUBLICATIONS

K-12 Occupancy Classification and Load Factors, IR A-26, rev. April 18, 2012

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PUBLICATIONS

A Citizen's Guide to Radon: The Guide to Protecting Yourself and Your Family from Radon, 2016

Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool, rev. 2015

Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools, rev. 2009

Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings, September 2008

The ABCs of Asbestos in Schools, rev. August 2003

How to Manage Asbestos in School Buildings: AHERA Designated Person's Self-Study Guide, 1996

Environmental Safety (Cont.)

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

AirNow: <http://www.airnow.gov>

American Association of School Administrators: <http://www.aasa.org>

California Air Resources Board: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>

California Building Standards: <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx>

California Department of Education, Health and Safety: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/hs>

California Department of Pesticide Regulation: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>

California State Water Resources Control Board: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Consumer Product Safety Commission: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

National Center for Environmental Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration: <http://www.osha.gov>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov>

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Amended: 11/27/18

Business and Non-instructional Operations

Environmental Safety

The Superintendent may designate and train one or more employees to oversee and coordinate the district's environmental safety program(s). The responsibilities of the coordinator(s) shall include, but are not limited to, overseeing assessments of district facilities, recommending strategies for the prevention and mitigation of environmental health risks, ensuring effective implementation of environmental safety strategies, and reporting to the Superintendent regarding the district's progress in addressing environmental safety concerns.

(cf. 3510 - Green School Operations)
(cf. 3511 - Energy and Water Management)
(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)
(cf. 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety)
(cf. 5142 - Safety)
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)
(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

Indoor Air Quality

In order to provide proper ventilation, humidity, and temperature in school facilities and to reduce indoor air contaminants, the following strategies shall be implemented:

1. Mechanically driven heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems shall be operated continuously during working hours except under the circumstances specified in 8 CCR 5142. The systems shall be inspected at least annually and problems corrected within a reasonable time. Where the air supply is filtered, the filters shall be replaced or cleaned regularly to prevent significant reductions in airflow. Documentation of inspections, tests of ventilation rates, and maintenance shall be retained for at least five years. (8 CCR 5142-5143)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Staff shall ensure that airflow is not obstructed by the blocking of ventilators with posters, furniture, books, or other obstacles.

2. School facilities shall be regularly inspected for water damage, spills, leaks in plumbing and roofs, poor drainage, and improper ventilation so as to preclude the buildup of mold and mildew and prevent accidents due to unsafe conditions. Wet building materials and furnishings shall be dried within 48 hours if possible to prevent mold growth. When evidence of mold or mildew is found, maintenance staff shall locate and repair the source of water intrusion and remove or clean moldy materials.
3. Exterior wall and foundation cracks and openings shall be sealed as soon as possible to minimize seepage of radon into buildings from surrounding soils.
4. Least toxic pest management practices shall be used to control and manage pests at school sites. (Education Code 17608-17614; Food and Agriculture Code 13182)

(cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)

Environmental Safety (Cont.)

5. A carbon monoxide detector or alarm shall be installed in all school buildings that contain a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace, or forced-air furnace, unless otherwise exempted by state law or regulations. The device or alarm shall be located in close proximity to the appliance in order to accurately detect and alert school personnel of any leakage of carbon monoxide. (24 CCR 915.1-915.7)
6. Schedules and practices for routine housekeeping and maintenance shall be designed to effectively reduce levels of dust, dirt, and debris. Plain water, soap and water, or low-emission cleaning products shall be used whenever possible. Aerosols, including air fresheners and other products containing ozone, shall be avoided to the extent possible.

(cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)
7. Painting of school facilities and maintenance or repair activities that require the use of potentially harmful substances shall be limited to those times when school is not in session. Following any such activity, the facility shall be properly ventilated with adequate time allowed prior to reopening for use by any person.
8. Paints, adhesives, and solvents shall be used and stored in well-ventilated areas. These items shall be purchased in small quantities to avoid storage exposure.

(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)
9. To the extent possible, printing and duplicating equipment that may generate indoor air pollutants, such as methyl alcohol or ammonia, shall be placed in locations that are well ventilated and not frequented by students and staff.
10. The district's tobacco-free schools policy shall be consistently enforced in order to reduce the health risks caused by second-hand smoke.

(cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)
11. Staff and students shall be asked to refrain from bringing common irritants such as furred or feathered animals, stuffed toys that may collect dust mites, scented candles, incense, or air fresheners and from using perfume or cologne, scented lotion or hair spray, nail polish or nail polish remover, or other personal care products that are not fragrance-free in classrooms, school buses, or other enclosed areas or buildings.

(cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School)

Outdoor Air Quality

The Superintendent or designee may coordinate with the local air resources control board and monitor local health advisories and outdoor air quality alerts to obtain forecasts of ozone levels, particle pollution, ultraviolet radiation levels, and/or temperature and humidity.

Whenever a forecast indicates a significant health risk, the Superintendent or designee shall communicate with each principal so that outdoor activities, especially those requiring prolonged or heavy exertion, may be avoided, limited in duration, or modified as necessary for all persons or for persons who may be particularly susceptible to the health risk involved.

Environmental Safety (Cont.)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)
(cf. 3516.5 - Emergency Schedules)
(cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety)
(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

Reduction of Vehicle Emissions

In order to reduce public exposure to toxic air contaminants, school bus drivers and other drivers of commercial motor vehicles shall limit unnecessary idling of vehicles at or near schools in accordance with 13 CCR 2480. The Superintendent or designee may also request parents/guardians to turn off their vehicles when they are idling on school grounds and encourage students to walk and/or bicycle to school.

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)
(cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)
(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)
(cf. 5142.2 - Safe Routes to School Program)

Any school bus that is diesel-fueled, dual-fueled, or alternative diesel-fueled and has a gross vehicle weight rating over 14,000 pounds shall be equipped with a particulate filter designed to reduce particulate matter emissions, oxides of nitrogen emissions, and other pollutants. (13 CCR 2025)

Drinking Water Safety

The quality and safety of the district's drinking water sources shall be regularly assessed, and drinking fountains shall be regularly cleaned and maintained, to ensure that drinking water consumed at school does not contain dirt, mold, lead, or other impurities or contaminants that may cause serious health concerns.

Whenever any contaminants in the drinking water are determined to be a concern, the Superintendent or designee shall take reasonable steps to identify the source and mitigate any potential problem to ensure the availability of safe drinking water. As needed, the Superintendent or designee shall provide alternative sources of drinking water, such as bottled water or on-site water filtration, to ensure that students have access to fresh drinking water at mealtimes and at other times throughout the day.

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

Whenever testing of drinking water finds concentrations of lead that exceed federal and state standards, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians and take immediate steps to shut down and make inoperable any fountains or faucets where excess lead levels may exist.

Environmental Safety (Cont.)

Prevention of Lead Exposure

In addition to testing for the presence of lead in drinking water in district schools, the following steps shall be taken to minimize potential exposure to lead in school facilities:

1. School facilities shall be kept as dust-free and clean as possible.
2. Lead-based paint, lead plumbing and solders, or other potential sources of lead contamination shall not be used in the construction of any new school facility or the modernization or renovation of any existing school facility. (Education Code 32244)
3. Lead exposure hazards shall be evaluated before any renovation or remodeling is begun, and children shall not be allowed in or near buildings in which these activities may create lead dust. Contractors and workers shall comply with state and federal standards related to the handling and disposal of lead debris and the clean-up and containment of dust within the construction area.
4. Lead-based painted surfaces that are in good condition shall be kept intact. If lead-based paint is peeling, flaking, or chalking, contractors or workers shall follow state and federal standards for safe work practices to minimize contamination when removing the paint.
5. Soil with low lead content may be covered with grass, other plantings, concrete, or asphalt. For soil with high lead content, removal and abatement are required.

Any action to abate existing lead hazards shall be taken only by contractors, inspectors, and workers certified by the California Department of Public Health in accordance with 17 CCR 35001-35099. (Education Code 32243)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify parent/guardians, teachers, and staff members if significant risk factors for lead exposure are found. (Education Code 32243)

Prevention of Mercury Exposure

The Superintendent or designee shall identify any mercury-containing products that are present in district facilities and, to the extent possible, shall replace them with mercury-free alternatives.

Staff shall receive information about proper procedures to follow in the event of a mercury spill. Clean-up instructions, a clearly labeled kit with necessary clean-up supplies, and a list of local resources shall be readily accessible.

In the event of a spill, staff shall evacuate all students from the immediate area of the spill, ensure that any clothing or other items with mercury on them remain in the room, open windows to the outside, and close doors to other parts of the school. Staff who are trained in proper clean-up procedures may carefully clean a small spill. As needed for larger or difficult-to-clean spills, the Superintendent or designee shall use an experienced professional referred by the local health department or environmental agency.

Any products containing mercury shall be properly disposed at an appropriate hazardous waste collection facility.

Environmental Safety (Cont.)

Asbestos Management

The Superintendent shall designate an employee who shall ensure that the district's responsibilities related to asbestos inspection and abatement are implemented in accordance with federal and state regulations. This employee shall receive adequate training to perform these duties, including, as necessary, training on the health effects of asbestos; detection, identification, and assessment of asbestos-containing building materials; options for controlling asbestos-containing building materials; asbestos management programs; and relevant federal and state regulations. (40 CFR 763.84)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

The designated employee shall ensure that the district complies with the following requirements:

1. School facilities shall be inspected for asbestos-containing building materials as necessary in accordance with the following:
 - a. Any school building that is leased, acquired, or otherwise used by the district shall be inspected for asbestos-containing building materials prior to its use as a school building, unless exempted by federal regulations. (40 CFR 763.85, 763.99)
 - b. At least once every six months, the district shall conduct a periodic surveillance consisting of a visual inspection of each school building that contains or is assumed to contain asbestos-containing building materials. (40 CFR 763.92)
 - c. At least once every three years, the district shall conduct a re-inspection of all known or assumed asbestos-containing building materials in each school building. (40 CFR 763.85)
2. Based on the results of the inspection, an appropriate response which is sufficient to protect human health and the environment shall be determined from among the options specified in 40 CFR 763.90. The district may select the least burdensome response, taking into consideration local circumstances, including occupancy and use patterns within the school building and economic concerns such as short-term and long-term costs. (40 CFR 763.90)
3. An asbestos management plan for each school site shall be maintained and regularly updated to keep it current with ongoing operations and maintenance, periodic surveillance, inspection, re-inspection, and response action activities. (15 USC 2643; 40 CFR 763.93)

The asbestos management plan shall be available for inspection in district and school offices during normal business hours. Parent/guardian, teacher, and employee organizations shall be annually informed of the availability of these plans. (40 CFR 763.84, 763.93)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

4. Staff, students, and parents/guardians shall be informed at least once each school year about any inspections, response actions, and post-response actions, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities, that are planned or in progress. (40 CFR 763.84)

Environmental Safety (Cont.)

5. Inspections, re-inspections, periodic surveillance, and response actions, including operations and maintenance, shall be conducted in compliance with state and federal regulations for the protection and safety of workers and all other individuals. (Education Code 49410.5; 40 CFR 763.84, 763.90)

Asbestos inspection and abatement work, preparation of a management plan, and any maintenance activities that may disturb asbestos-containing building materials, except for emergency repairs or small-scale, short-duration maintenance activities, shall be completed by state-certified asbestos inspectors or contractors. (15 USC 2646; 40 CFR 763.84, 763.85, 763.91)

6. All custodial and maintenance employees shall be properly trained in accordance with applicable federal and/or state regulations. (40 CFR 763.84)

All district maintenance and custodial staff who may work in a building that contains asbestos-containing building materials, regardless of whether they are required to work with such materials, shall receive at least two hours of related asbestos awareness training. New maintenance and custodial staff shall receive such training within 60 days after beginning employment. Any maintenance or custodial staff who conduct activities that will disturb asbestos-containing building materials shall receive 14 hours of additional training. The trainings shall address the topics specified in 40 CFR 763.92. (15 USC 2655; 40 CFR 763.84, 763.92)

7. Short-term workers, such as telephone repair workers, utility workers, or exterminators, who may come in contact with asbestos in a school shall be provided information regarding the locations of known or suspected asbestos-containing building materials. (40 CFR 763.84)
8. Warning labels shall be posted immediately adjacent to any known or suspected asbestos-containing building material located in routine maintenance areas in accordance with 40 CFR 763.95. (40 CFR 763.84)

The district shall maintain, in both the district and school offices and for a period of three years, records pertaining to each preventive measure and response action taken; staff training; periodic surveillances conducted; cleaning, operations, and maintenance activities; and any fiber release episode. (40 CFR 763.94)

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