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ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

Indoor Air Quality

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the following strategies are implemented in order to provide proper ventilation, humidity, and temperature in school facilities and to reduce indoor air contaminants:

1. Mechanically driven heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems shall be operated, continuously during working hours except under the circumstances specified in 8 CCR 5142-5143. These 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 not obstruct airflow by covering or blocking ventilators with posters, furniture, books, or other obstacles.

2. School buildings shall be regularly inspected for water damage, spills, leaks in plumbing and roofs, poor drainage, and improper ventilations so as to preclude the build up of mold and mildew. 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 or 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.

(cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)

5. Routine housekeeping and maintenance schedules and practices 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)

6. Painting of school facilities and maintenance or repair duties 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
7. 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.
8. To the extent possible, printing and duplicating equipment that may generate indoor air pollutants, such as methyl alcohol or ammonia, shall be placed in a well-ventilated area with minimal exposure of students and staff
9. 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)

10. Staff shall refrain from bringing common irritants into the classroom, including, but not limited to, furred or feathered animals, stuffed toys that may collect dust mites, or perfumes or lotions, when students in the class are known to have allergies, asthma, or other sensitive to odors.

(cf. 6163.2 – Animals at School)

Outdoor Air Quality

The Superintendent or designee may monitor local health advisories and outdoor air quality alerts, including forecasts of ozone levels, particle pollution, and/or ultraviolet radiation levels.

Whenever these measures indicate 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 sensitive

(cf. 5141.7 – Sun Safety)

(cf. 6142.7 – Physical Education)

(cf. 6145.2 – Athletic Competition)

Vehicle Idling

Except under the conditions specific in 13 CCR 2480 for which vehicle idling may be necessary, the driver of a school bus, student activity bus, or commercial motor vehicle shall:

(13 CCR 2480)

1. Turn off the bus or vehicle engine upon stopping at a school or within 100 feet of a school and not restart the engine more than 30 seconds before beginning to depart
2. Not cause or allow the bus or vehicle to idle at any location greater than 100 feet from a school for more than five consecutive minutes or for an aggregated period of more than five minutes in any one hour

(cf. 3540 – Transportation)

(cf. 3541.1 – Transportation for School-Related Trips)

Lead Exposure Reduction

In addition to keeping school facilities as dust-free and clean as possible, the following steps shall be taken to minimize potential exposure to lead in school facilities:

1. 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)
2. 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 dust within the construction area.

3. 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 paint.
4. Soil with high lead content may be covered with grass, other plantings, concrete or asphalt.
5. Whenever testing of drinking water finds concentration of lead that exceed federal and state standards in 40 CFR 141.80 and 22CCR 64678, water outlets shall be flushed thoroughly each day before use or made inoperable until a plan for remediation can be implemented. The Superintendent or designee may supply alternative sources of drinking water as appropriate.

Any action to abate existing lead hazards, excluding containment or cleaning, shall be taken only by contractors, inspectors, and workers certified by the California Department of Public Health in accordance with 14 CCR 35001-35099. (Education Code 32243)