

**Regulation 3514: Environmental Safety**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 05/08/2012

The Superintendent may designate one or more employees to oversee and coordinate the district's environmental safety program(s). The responsibilities of the coordinator(s) shall include, but not be 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.

**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. 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 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 ventilation so as to preclude the buildup 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 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.

(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)

**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 and Activity)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

#### 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 of 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 the paint.
4. Soil with high lead content may be covered with grass, other plantings, concrete, or asphalt.
5. Whenever testing of drinking water finds concentrations of lead that exceed federal and state standards in 40 CFR 141.80 and 22 CCR 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 17 CCR 35001-35099. (Education Code 32243)

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