

Policy 3514: Environmental Safety

Status: ADOPTED

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The Board of Education 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. He/she shall establish a comprehensive plan to prevent and/or mitigate environmental hazards based on a consideration of 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 attendance, student attendance, and student achievement.

Strategies addressed in the district's plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

1. Ensuring good indoor air quality by maintaining adequate ventilation; using effective maintenance operations to reduce dust, mold, mildew, and other indoor air contaminants; and considering air quality in the site selection, design, and furnishing of new or remodeled facilities
2. Limiting outdoor activities when necessary due to poor outdoor air quality, including excessive smog, smoke, or ozone, or when ultraviolet radiation levels indicate a high risk of harm
3. Reducing exposure to diesel exhaust and other air contaminants by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses and other commercial motor vehicles
4. Minimizing exposure to lead in paint, soil, and drinking water
5. Inspecting facilities for naturally occurring asbestos and asbestos-containing building materials that pose a health hazard due to damage or deterioration and safely removing, encapsulating, enclosing, or repairing such materials
6. Ensuring the proper storage, use, and disposal of potentially hazardous substances
7. Ensuring the use of effective least toxic pest management practices
8. Instituting a food safety program for the storage, preparation, delivery, and service of school meals in order to reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses

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

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 environmental safety at the schools.

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.
