

Regulation 3514: Environmental Safety

Status: ADOPTED

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The Superintendent or designee 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 or designee 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)

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.
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.
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.
8. The district's tobacco-free schools policy shall be consistently enforced in order to reduce the health risks caused by second-hand smoke.

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 appropriately as needed to the sites 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.

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. Painted surfaces shall not be disturbed during normal maintenance operations. To minimize lead dust when students are present, floors and painted surfaces shall be mopped with detergent rather than being swept. Paint shall not be sanded, burned or scraped unless it is known that the paint contains no lead.
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. School drinking water fountains shall be monitored for the amount of lead in the water, and corrective action shall be taken when necessary.

Asbestos Testing and Abatement

Maintenance staff shall be trained in the location, identification, proper cleaning and ongoing maintenance of asbestos-containing materials and in the removal and decontamination of small amounts of such materials when needed to repair pipes or perform similar duties. Any more extensive asbestos abatement work shall be done by state-certified asbestos abatement contractors in compliance with state and federal standards.

The district's complete, updated management plan for material containing asbestos in school buildings shall be available for inspection in district and school offices during normal business hours. Parent, teacher and employee organizations shall annually be informed of the availability of this plan. (40 CFR 763.93)

Other Environmental Safety Precautions

Principals or their designees shall enforce school rules designed to:

1. Prevent the accumulation of flammable, noxious or otherwise dangerous materials unless adequate safeguards are provided
 2. Keep all school facilities free of debris
 3. Keep walkways at all times open to pedestrian traffic and clear of obstructions
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