

Policy 3514: Environmental Safety

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/30/2005

The Governing Board believes that students and employees have the right to learn and work in a safe, clean and healthy environment. The District has an obligation to locate and reduce or eliminate potential risks to health and the environment, to use environmental resources in a responsible way, and to educate students and staff about environmental issues.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish regulations to guard against environmental hazards. Students and staff are encouraged to report any unsafe conditions they may observe.

Air Quality

The Board recognizes that clean air contributes to a favorable learning environment for students, productivity for staff, and the health of all school occupants. Adequate ventilation, appropriate housekeeping and maintenance procedures, and the removal of pollution sources are all necessary to achieve good indoor air quality. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff implement measures that will maintain good air quality in classrooms and offices.

The District is committed to preventing and correcting Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) problems. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff implement measures that will maintain good air quality in classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, auditoriums, gyms, cafeterias, kitchens, program and support spaces, and offices. In order to promote good indoor air quality and because the following items can adversely impact indoor air quality, pets, reptiles, aquariums, plants, and personal-size refrigerators are not allowed in any instructional, support, or office area. Food items are not allowed in classrooms; the only exception would be special occasion activities, i.e., working meetings or PTA-sponsored seasonal parties. It is the responsibility of the teacher, advisor, and/or sponsor to ensure that meeting rooms are cleaned following the activity and that garbage is disposed of in receptacles outside the classroom. Additional prohibited items are listed in the Board-adopted, Tools for Schools, Indoor Air Quality Program.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a committee to oversee the Indoor Air Quality Management Program. The intent of the Indoor Air Quality Management Program is to minimize building occupants' exposure to uncomfortable and potentially harmful IAQ environments. This effort starts with the appropriate design and construction of new and renovated facilities, and continues through the life of the facility with appropriate maintenance and housekeeping practices. For existing facilities, practices will be adopted to assure best possible systems performance. Emphasis will be placed on source reduction, and building and system maintenance and cleaning.

Objectives

- * Recognize that schools serve populations of potentially sensitive individuals, i.e., children, immune-compromised children and adults, and on occasion the elderly, for whom occupational exposure standards do not apply or are not appropriate. The District will take protective and prudent measures to assure acceptable Indoor Air Quality.
- * Recognize that all members of the school community, i.e., teachers, health officials, food service, maintenance, purchasing and custodial staff, etc. play a role in assuring acceptable Indoor Air Quality, to foster active communication between these members to assure a "best practices" approach to providing a healthy learning and working environment.
- * The District will consider the health implications and effects on Indoor Air Quality and the Indoor Environment of various practices and recommendations brought to the District's attention by the staff and other members of the school community.

Good IAQ practices will be adopted to ensure that the District will achieve the above objectives. The District will institute an overall program of applying the techniques and practices outlined in the "Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Action Kit" throughout all District schools and facilities.

Pest Management

Sanitary measures shall be enforced and buildings regularly cleaned and repaired in order to prevent infestations, minimize the use of pesticides, and eliminate routine spraying.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the District follows integrated pest management procedures so as

to use the most appropriate and least toxic method of control.

Lead Exposure Reduction

The Board recognizes that exposure to lead is especially damaging to young children and that hazardous levels of lead may sometimes be present in paints, soil or drinking water. In order to minimize any harmful exposure, the District shall follow guidelines recommended by the Department of Health Services and specified in Administrative Regulations.
