

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

Note: The following **optional** policy may be revised to reflect district practice.

Education Code 17070.75 requires any district participating in the state's School Facility Program or Deferred Maintenance Program to have a facility inspection system in place to ensure that facilities are kept in "good repair," as defined in Education Code 17002 and determined according to the Facility Inspection Tool developed by the Office of Public School Construction. This tool includes a number of environmental safety conditions; see BP 3517 - Facilities Inspection. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed the Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT), a software program designed to be customized by districts to conduct voluntary self-assessments of environmental conditions, such as chemical management, hazardous materials and waste, indoor and outdoor air quality, moisture/mold control, pest control, ultraviolet radiation, and construction/renovation of school facilities. For further information, see the EPA's web site.

The Board of Trustees 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.

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)
(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)
(cf. 3516.3 - Earthquake Emergency Procedure System)
(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)
(cf. 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 5142 - Safety)
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

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

(cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)
(cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)
(cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School)
(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

Note: In order to determine when poor outdoor air quality necessitates limiting outdoor activities, as provided in **optional** item #2 below, districts may use local or online resources to obtain forecasts of air quality and ultraviolet radiation. See the accompanying administrative regulation, BP 5141.7 - Sun Safety, and CSBA's policy brief on Sun Safety in Schools.

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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

(cf. 3516.5 - Emergency Schedules)

(cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)

Note: 13 CCR 2480 establishes requirements for limiting idling by school buses and other commercial motor vehicles in order to reduce exposure to diesel exhaust and other air contaminants as provided in **optional** item #3 below; see the accompanying administrative regulation.

3. Reducing exposure to diesel exhaust and other air contaminants by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses and other commercial motor vehicles

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

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

(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)

Note: According to the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, exposure to lead, which may be particularly hazardous for young children, can occur through multiple means as described in **optional** item #4 below and in the accompanying administrative regulation.

4. Minimizing exposure to lead in paint, soil, and drinking water

Note: Education Code 49410.5 requires districts to comply with EPA guidelines for inspection and management of asbestos-containing materials, as provided in **optional** item #5 below and the accompanying administrative regulation. Naturally occurring asbestos may be found in rocks or soil and released into the air by routine human activities or weathering processes. According to the EPA, asbestos-containing materials and naturally occurring asbestos that are intact generally do not pose a health risk, but these materials may become hazardous if they are disturbed and thereby released into the air.

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

Note: 8 CCR 5194 requires that a written hazard communication program be developed and implemented by employers whose employees may have potential exposure to hazardous substances, as provided in **optional** item #6 below; see BP/AR 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances for further information.

6. Ensuring the proper storage, use, and disposal of potentially hazardous substances

(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)

(cf. 6161.3 - Toxic Art Supplies)

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (continued)

Note: Education Code 17608-17613 require the use of effective least toxic pest management practices for the management of pests at school sites, as provided in **optional** item #7 below; see AR 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management for further information.

7. Ensuring the use of effective least toxic pest management practices

(cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)

Note: State and federal law (Health and Safety Code 113700-114437 and 42 USC 1758) establish sanitation and safety requirements for food services, as provided in **optional** item #8 below; see BP/AR 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program and CSBA's fact sheet on Food Safety Requirements.

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

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

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.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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 school.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

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 the 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.

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17002 Definition of "good repair"

17070.75 Facilities inspection

17582 Deferred maintenance fund

17590 Asbestos abatement fund

17608-17613 Healthy Schools Act of 2000, least toxic pest management practices

32240-32245 Lead-Safe Schools Protection Act

48980.3 Notification of pesticides

49410-49410.7 Asbestos materials containment or removal

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CODE

11401-12408 Pest control operations and agricultural chemicals

13180-13188 Healthy Schools Act of 2000, least toxic pest management practices

GOVERNMENT CODE

3543.2 Scope of representation; right to negotiate safety conditions

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

105400-105430 Indoor environmental quality

113700-114437 California Retail Food Code, sanitation and safety requirements

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

14010 Standards for school site selection

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8

337-339 Hazardous substances list

340-340.2 Occupational safety and health, rights of employees

1528-1533 Construction safety orders; exposure to hazards

5139-5223 Control of hazardous substances

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

2025 Retrofitting of diesel school buses

2480 Vehicle idling

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 17

35001-36100 Lead abatement services

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

64670-64679 Lead and copper in drinking water

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 7

136-136y Use of pesticides

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 15

2601-2629 Control of toxic substances

2641-2656 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1758 Food safety and inspections

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 40

141.1-141.723 Drinking water standards

745.61-745.339 Lead-based paint standards

763.80-763.99 Asbestos-containing materials in schools

763.120-763.123 Asbestos worker protections

Management Resources: (see next page)

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (continued)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Indoor Air Quality: Board of Trustees Actions for Creating Healthy School Environments, Policy Brief, July 2008

Asthma Management in the Schools, Policy Brief, March 2008

Food Safety Requirements, Fact Sheet, October 2007

Sun Safety in Schools, Policy Brief, July 2006

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

School Site Selection and Approval Guide, 2000

Indoor Air Quality, A Guide for Educators, 1995

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Report to the Legislature: Lead Hazards in California's Public Elementary Schools and Child Care Facilities, April 1998

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PUBLICATIONS

Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools, rev. 2007

Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool, 2007

The ABCs of Asbestos in Schools, rev. August 2003

Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings, March 2001

How to Manage Asbestos in School Buildings: AHERA Designated Person's Self-Study Guide, 1996

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

AirNow: <http://www.airnow.gov>

American Association of School Administrators: <http://www.aasa.org>

California Air Resources Board: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>

California Department of Education, Health and Safety: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/hs>

California Department of Pesticide Regulation: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>

California Indoor Air Quality Program: <http://www.cal-iaq.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Consumer Product Safety Commission: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

National Center for Environmental Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration: <http://www.osha.gov>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov>