

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 and shall develop strategies to prevent and/or mitigate environmental hazards. He/she shall consider 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 and students, including the impact on student achievement and attendance.

Such strategies shall focus on maximizing healthy indoor air quality; monitoring the quality of outdoor air and adjusting outdoor activities as necessary; reducing exposure to vehicle emissions; minimizing exposure to lead and mercury; reducing the risk of unsafe drinking water; inspecting and properly abating asbestos; appropriately storing, using, and disposing of potentially hazardous substances; using effective least toxic pest management practices; reducing the risk of foodborne illness; and addressing any other environmental hazards identified during facilities inspections.

Note: Health and Safety Code 116277, as added by AB 746 (Ch. 746, Statutes of 2017), requires a community water system serving a school to test for lead in the potable water system of the school and, if the school's lead level exceeds a defined level, the district must notify parents/guardians, take immediate steps to shut down all fountains and faucets where the excess lead levels may exist, and provide a potable source of drinking water to students. Schools that have their own water supply, such as a well, are required to test for lead, copper, and other contaminants in tap water pursuant to other state and federal law and regulations, including 22 CCR 64670-64679 and 40 CFR 141.80-141.91. See the California Water Boards' "Frequently Asked Questions about Lead Testing of Drinking Water in California Schools: Updated for Assembly Bill 746/Health and Safety Code 116277." For more information in regard to lead exposure and remediation, see the accompanying administrative regulation.

In developing strategies to promote healthy school environments, the Superintendent or designee may consult and collaborate with local environmental protection agencies, health agencies, water boards, 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 environmentally safe and healthy 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.
