

Environmental Safety

The Superintendent may designate and train one or more employees to oversee and coordinate the district's environmental safety program(s). The responsibilities of the coordinator(s) shall include, but are not 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 regarding the district's progress in addressing environmental safety concerns.

(cf. 3510 - Green School Operations)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 3511 - Energy and Water Management)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)

(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

(cf. 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety)

(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish regulations and strategies to prevent and/or reduce environmental hazards in accordance with law and state guidelines:

1. Considering air quality in the siting and architectural design of new or remodeled facilities and in the selection of building materials and furnishings, and taking steps to reduce indoor air contaminants in maintenance operations
2. Ensuring the use of effective least toxic pest management practices at all district schools
(cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)
3. Minimizing the exposure to lead in paint, soil or drinking water, especially in areas accessible to very young children
4. Inspecting and testing facilities for asbestos-containing materials and protecting persons during encapsulation and removal of any asbestos

Indoor Air Quality

In order to provide proper ventilation, humidity, and temperature in school facilities and to reduce indoor air contaminants, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the following strategies are implemented:

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)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Staff shall ensure that airflow is not obstructed by the blocking of ventilators with posters, furniture, books, or other obstacles.

2. School facilities 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.

Environmental Safety

Indoor Air Quality (*continued*)

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.
(*cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management*)
5. In any new school construction, and in all existing schools when feasible, the Superintendent or designee shall install a carbon monoxide detector in each school building that contains a fossil fuel burning furnace. The device shall be placed in close proximity to the furnace in order to accurately detect any leakage of carbon monoxide.
6. Schedules and practices for routine housekeeping and maintenance 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.
(*cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management*)
7. 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.
8. Paints, adhesives, and solvents shall be used and stored in well-ventilated areas. These items shall be purchased in small quantities to avoid storage exposure.
(*cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances*)
(*cf. 6161.3 - Toxic Art Supplies*)
9. To the extent possible, printing and duplicating equipment that may generate indoor air pollutants, such as methyl alcohol or ammonia, shall be placed in locations that are well ventilated and not frequented by students and staff.
10. The district's tobacco-free schools policy shall be consistently enforced in order to reduce the health risks caused by second-hand smoke.
(*cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools*)
11. Staff and students shall be asked to refrain from bringing common irritants such as furred or feathered animals, stuffed toys that may collect dust mites, scented candles, incense, or air fresheners, and from using perfume or cologne, scented lotion or hair spray, nail polish or nail polish remover, or other personal care products that are not fragrance-free in classrooms or other enclosed areas or buildings.
(*cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School*)

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 with each principal 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 susceptible to the health risk involved.

(*cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety*)

(*cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity*)

(*cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities*)

(*cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition*)

Environmental Safety

Vehicle Emissions

In order to reduce public exposure to toxic air contaminants, school bus drivers and other drivers of commercial motor vehicles shall limit unnecessary idling of vehicles at or near schools in accordance with 13 CCR 2480.

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

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

(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)

Any diesel-fueled school bus with a gross vehicle weight rating over 14,000 pounds manufactured on or after April 1, 1977, shall be equipped with a particulate filter designed to reduce particulate matter emissions, oxides of nitrogen emissions, and other pollutants. (13 CCR 2025)

Drinking Water

Whenever testing of drinking water finds concentrations of lead that exceed federal and state standards, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians and take immediate steps to shut down and make inoperable any fountains or faucets where excess lead levels may exist.

The quality and safety of the district's drinking water sources shall be regularly assessed.

Whenever testing of drinking water finds concentrations of lead that exceed federal and state standards in 40 CFR 141.80 and 22 CCR 64678, water outlets shall be flushed thoroughly each day before use or made inoperable until a plan for remediation can be implemented.

Whenever levels of arsenic, bacteria, or other contaminants in the drinking water are determined to be a concern, the Superintendent or designee may recommend basic filtration or pipe flushing when feasible.

Until drinking water is assured to be safe, the Superintendent or designee may explore alternatives, such as bottled water, to ensure that students have access to fresh drinking water at mealtimes and at other times throughout the day. As needed, he/she also may encourage appropriate governmental agencies to conduct regular testing of the water quality in district schools and to implement strategies to improve water quality in the community.

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

Drinking fountains in district schools shall be regularly cleaned and maintained to avoid the presence of dirt, mold, or other impurities or health concerns.

Lead Exposure Reduction

The following steps shall be taken to minimize potential exposure to lead:

1. Painted surfaces shall be kept intact whenever possible. To minimize lead dust during maintenance operations, a tarp or plastic shall be placed under paint removal operations to collect old paint debris, paint shall be dampened before removing it with a scraper, nearby surfaces shall be cleaned with a wet mop or cloth after the job is completed, a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) attachment may be used on power sanders, and clean-up may be conducted with HEPA vacuums to remove lead dust. An open flame shall not be used to remove old paint.
2. Soil with high lead content may be covered with grass, other plantings, concrete or asphalt. Children's access to high lead content bare soil shall be restricted.

Environmental Safety

3. When drinking water is found to have unacceptable levels of lead, water outlets shall be flushed daily for at least 30 seconds prior to use. The Superintendent or designee also may reduce lead concentrations in the source water, install a corrosion control device at the school's point of entry, or provide bottled water as appropriate.
4. 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 dust within the construction area.
5. The Superintendent or designee may provide parents/guardians and students with information about the prevention of lead poisoning and to notify the parents if significant risk factors for lead exposure are found. *(cf. 5141.32 - Child Health and Disability Prevention Program)*
6. If the lead level exceeds the specified level at a schoolsite, we would notify the parents and guardians of the pupils who attend the schoolsite or preschool. The local educational agency would take immediate steps to make inoperable and shut down from use all fountains and faucets where the excess lead levels may exist and would require the local educational agency to work with the school site to ensure that a potable source of drinking water is provided for students.
7. Remedial action to abate existing lead hazards shall be taken only by personnel qualified in accordance with law. *(Education Code 32243)*

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. Extensive asbestos abatement work shall be completed 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. Parent, teacher, and employee organizations shall annually be informed of the availability of this plan. *(40 CFR 763.93)*

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

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
(cf. 6161.3 - Toxic Art Supplies)
2. Keep all school facilities free of debris
3. Keep walkways at all times open to pedestrian traffic and clear of obstructions

Regulation

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SAN LUIS COASTAL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Luis Obispo, California