

**Policy 3514: Environmental Safety**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 01/21/2009 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/21/2009

The Governing Board recognizes its obligation to provide a safe and healthy environment at school facilities for students, staff and community members. The Board shall identify and address potential risks to health and the environment and shall ensure that environmental resources are used in a responsible manner.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish regulations to prevent and/or reduce environmental hazards in accordance with law and state guidelines. Strategies shall include but not necessarily be limited to:

1. 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
2. Reducing exposure to diesel exhaust and other air contaminants by limiting unnecessary idling of school buses and other commercial motor vehicles
3. Minimizing exposure to lead in paint, soil, and drinking water
4. 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
5. Ensuring the proper storage, use, and disposal of potentially hazardous substances
6. Ensuring the use of effective least toxic pest management practices
7. Instituting a food safety program for the storage, preparation, delivery, and service of school meals in order to reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses

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.

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 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.

---