

## **Business and Noninstructional Operations**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY**

The Governing Board 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. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)
- (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. 5142 - Safety)
- (cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

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; 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.

- (cf. 3510 - Green School Operations)
- (cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)
- (cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)
- (cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)
- (cf. 3516.5 - Emergency Schedules)

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.

- (cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (continued)**

The notification shall provide information about the district's actions to remedy the hazard and may recommend health screening of staff and students.

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
- 32080-32081 Carbon monoxide devices
- 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
- 116277 Lead testing of potable water at schools and requirements to remedy

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

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24

- 915.1-915.7 California Building Standards Code; carbon monoxide devices

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

Legal Reference Continued: (see next page)

## ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (continued)

### Legal Reference: (continued)

#### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

175 Food safety and inspections

#### CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 40

141.1-141.72 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:

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Indoor Air Quality: Governing Board 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

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY: AIR RESOURCES BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Facts about Truck and Bus Regulation School Bus Provisions, rev. March 22, 2011

#### CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Frequently Asked Questions about Lead Testing of Drinking Water in California Schools; Updated for Assembly Bill 746/Health and Safety Code 116277, December 15, 2017

#### DIVISION OF THE STATE ARCHITECT PUBLICATIONS

K-12 Occupancy Classification and Load Factors, IR A-26, rev. April 18, 2012

#### U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PUBLICATIONS

A Citizen's Guide to Radon: The Guide to Protecting Yourself and Your Family from Radon, 2016

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 Building Standards: <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx>

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

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California Department of Pesticide Regulation: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>  
California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>  
California State Water Resources Control Board: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov>  
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>

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## **Business and Noninstructional Operations**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY**

The Superintendent may designate one or more employees to oversee and coordinate the district's environmental safety program(s). The responsibilities of the coordinator(s) shall include, but not be 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. 3511 - Energy and Water Management)  
(cf. 3517 - Facilities Inspection)  
(cf. 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety)  
(cf. 5142 - Safety)  
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)  
(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

### **Indoor Air Quality**

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

1. Mechanically driven heating, ventilating 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)

Staff shall not obstruct airflow by covering or blocking 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.
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.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (continued)**

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. Routine housekeeping and maintenance schedules and practices 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)

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 a well-ventilated area with minimal exposure to 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 into the classroom, including, but not limited to, furred or feathered animals, stuffed toys that may collect dust mites, scented candles, incense, or air fresheners and from using perfume, cologne or scented lotion, 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.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (continued)**

(cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School)

The Superintendent or designee may monitor local health advisories and outdoor air quality alerts, including forecasts of ozone levels, particle pollution, ultraviolet radiation levels, and/or temperature and humidity.

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. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

### **Vehicle Idling**

Except under the conditions specified in 13 CCR 2480 for which vehicle idling may be necessary, the driver of a school bus, student activity bus, or commercial motor vehicle shall: (13 CCR 2480)

1. Turn off the bus or vehicle engine upon stopping at a school or within 100 feet of a school and not restart the engine more than 30 seconds before beginning to depart
2. Not cause or allow the bus or vehicle to idle at any location greater than 100 feet from a school for more than five consecutive minutes or for an aggregated period of more than five minutes in any one hour

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all bus drivers, upon employment and at least once per year thereafter, are informed of the requirements specified above and the potential legal and employment consequences of failure to comply. All complaints of noncompliance shall be reviewed and remedial action taken as necessary. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the training and of any complaints and enforcement actions for at least three years. (13 CCR 2480)

### **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.

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

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matter emissions, oxides of nitrogen emissions, and other pollutants. (13 CCR 2025)

(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)

(cf. 5142.2 - Safe Routes to School Program)

**Drinking Water**

The quality and safety of the district's drinking water sources shall be regularly assessed. Drinking fountains in district schools shall be regularly cleaned and maintained to avoid the presence of dirt, mold, or other impurities or health concerns.

Whenever any contaminants in the drinking water are determined to be a concern, the Superintendent or designee shall take reasonable steps to identify the source and mitigate the concern to ensure the availability of safe drinking water. As needed, the Superintendent or designee shall provide alternative sources of drinking water, such as bottled water, to ensure that students have access to fresh drinking water at mealtimes and at other times throughout the day.

**Lead Exposure**

In addition to keeping school facilities as dust-free and clean as possible, the following steps shall be taken to minimize potential exposure to lead in school facilities:

1. Lead-based paint, lead plumbing and solders, or other potential sources of lead contamination shall not be used in the construction of any new school facility or the modernization or renovation of any existing school facility. (Education Code 32244)
2. 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.
3. Lead-based painted surfaces that are in good condition shall be kept intact. If lead-based paint is peeling, flaking, or chalking, contractors or workers shall follow state and federal standards for safe work practices to minimize contamination when removing the paint.
4. Soil with low lead content may be covered with grass, other plantings, concrete, or asphalt. For soil with high lead content, removal and abatement are required.
5. Drinking water shall be regularly tested for lead and remediated as provided in the section "Drinking Water" above.



**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (continued)**

Any action to abate existing lead hazards, excluding containment or cleaning, shall be taken only by contractors, inspectors, and workers certified by the California Department of Public Health in accordance with 17 CCR 35001-35099. (Education Code 32243)

**Mercury Exposure**

The Superintendent or designee shall identify any products containing mercury that are present in district facilities and, to the extent possible, shall replace them with mercury-free alternatives.

Staff shall receive information about proper procedures to follow in the event of a mercury spill. Clean-up instructions, a clearly labeled kit with necessary clean-up supplies, and a list of local resources shall be readily accessible.

In the event of a spill, staff shall evacuate all students from the immediate area of the spill, ensure that any clothing or other items with mercury on them remain in the room, open windows to the outside, and close doors to other parts of the school. Staff who are trained in proper clean-up procedures may carefully clean a small spill. As needed for larger or difficult-to-clean spills, the Superintendent or designee shall use an experienced professional referred by the local health department or environmental agency.

Any products containing mercury shall be properly disposed at an appropriate hazardous waste collection facility.

- (cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
- (cf. 3580 – District Records)
- (cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)
- (cf. 3540 - Transportation)
- (cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)
- (cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

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