

BP 3514 - 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. [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)

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)

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)

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

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

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

(cf. [3514.1](#) - Hazardous Substances)

(cf. [6161.3](#) - Toxic Art Supplies)

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

(cf. [3514.2](#) - Integrated Pest Management)

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 schools.

(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 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.

(cf. [5141.6](#) - Student Health and Social Services)

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

[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:

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

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>

Policy WINDSOR UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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AR 3514

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. [3511](#) - Energy and Water Management)

(cf. [3517](#) - Facilities Inspection)

(cf. [4157/4257/4357](#) - Employee Safety)

(cf. [5030](#) - Student Wellness)

(cf. [5142](#) - Safety)

(cf. [7111](#) - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

(cf. [7150](#) - Site Selection and Development)

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.

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)

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

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

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 of lead debris and the clean-up and containment of dust within the construction area.
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 high lead content may be covered with grass, other plantings, concrete, or asphalt.
5. Drinking water shall be regularly tested for lead and remediated as provided in the section "Drinking Water" above.

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.

Asbestos Management

The Superintendent shall designate an employee who shall ensure that the district's responsibilities related to asbestos inspection and abatement are implemented in accordance with federal and state regulations. This employee shall receive adequate training to perform these duties, including, as necessary, training on the health effects of asbestos; detection, identification, and assessment of asbestos-containing materials; options for controlling asbestos-containing building materials; and relevant federal and state regulations. (40 CFR [763.84](#))

(cf. [4231](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [4331](#) - Staff Development)

The designated employee shall ensure that the district complies with the following requirements:

1. School facilities shall be inspected for asbestos-containing materials as necessary in accordance with the following:
 - a. Any school building that is leased or acquired by the district shall be inspected for asbestos-containing materials prior to its use as a school building, unless exempted by federal regulations. (40 CFR [763.85](#), [763.99](#))
 - b. At least once every six months, the district shall conduct a periodic surveillance consisting of a visual inspection of each school building that contains or is assumed to contain asbestos-containing building materials. (40 CFR [763.92](#))
 - c. At least once every three years, the district shall conduct a re-inspection of all known or assumed asbestos-containing building materials in each school building. (40 CFR [763.85](#))
2. Based on the results of the inspection, an appropriate response which is sufficient to protect human health and the environment shall be determined from among the options specified in 40 CFR [763.90](#). The

district may select the least burdensome response, taking into consideration local circumstances, including occupancy and use patterns within the school building and economic concerns such as short-term and long-term costs. (40 CFR [763.90](#))

3. An asbestos management plan for each school site shall be maintained and regularly updated to keep it current with ongoing operations and maintenance, periodic surveillance, inspection, re-inspection, and response action activities. (15 USC [2643](#); 40 CFR [763.93](#))

The asbestos management plan shall be available for inspection in district and school offices during normal business hours. Parent/guardian, teacher, and employee organizations shall be annually informed of the availability of these plans. (40 CFR [763.84](#))

(cf. [4112.9/4212.9/4312.9](#) - Employee Notifications)

(cf. [5145.6](#) - Parental Notifications)

4. Staff, students, and parents/guardians shall be informed at least once each school year about any inspections, response actions, and post-response actions, including periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities, that are planned or in progress. (40 CFR [763.84](#))

5. Inspections, re-inspections, periodic surveillance, and response actions, including operations and maintenance, shall be conducted in compliance with state and federal regulations for the protection and safety of workers and all other individuals. (Education Code [49410.5](#); 40 CFR [763.84](#))

Asbestos inspection and abatement work and any maintenance activities that may disturb asbestos-containing building materials, except for emergency repairs or small-scale, short-duration maintenance activities, shall be completed by state-certified asbestos inspectors or contractors. (15 USC [2646](#); 40 CFR [763.84](#), [763.85](#), [763.91](#))

6. All custodial and maintenance employees shall be properly trained in accordance with applicable federal and/or state regulations. (40 CFR [763.84](#))

All district maintenance and custodial staff who may work in a building that contains asbestos-containing materials, regardless of whether they are required to work with such materials, shall receive at least two hours of related asbestos awareness training. New maintenance and custodial staff shall receive such training within 60 days after beginning employment. Any maintenance or custodial staff who conduct activities that will disturb asbestos-containing materials shall receive 14 hours of additional training. The trainings shall address the topics specified in 40 CFR [763.92](#). (15 USC [2655](#); 40 CFR [763.84](#), [763.92](#))

7. Short-term workers, such as telephone repair workers, utility workers, or exterminators, who may come in contact with asbestos in a school shall be provided information regarding the locations of known or suspected asbestos-containing building materials. (40 CFR [763.84](#))

8. Warning labels shall be posted immediately adjacent to any known or suspected asbestos-containing building material located in routine maintenance areas in accordance with 40 CFR [763.95](#). (40 CFR [763.84](#))

The district shall maintain, in both the district and school offices and for a period of three years, records pertaining to each preventive measure and response action taken; staff training; periodic surveillances

conducted; cleaning, operations, and maintenance activities; and any fiber release episode. (40 CFR [763.94](#))

Regulation WINDSOR UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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