

Policy 3514: Environmental Safety

The ~~Board of Education~~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 ~~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. 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~~¶
- ~~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~~¶

~~The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians~~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.

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 **Governing** Board, staff, parents/guardians, students, and/or governmental agencies, as appropriate **and as soon as possible**, if an environmental hazard is discovered at a school site. The notification shall ~~detail~~ **provide** information about the district's ~~efforts~~ **actions** to remedy the hazard **and may recommend** health screening of staff and students.