

Burlington School District Policy

EHP: Environmental Health Policy

Statement of purpose

It is the belief of the Burlington Board of School Commissioners that a healthy environment is necessary to optimize conditions for learning for our students. All renovation and new construction will meet all state and local building codes relating to indoor air quality and environmental health.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a healthy learning environment plan designed to optimize conditions for learning and minimize human exposure to indoor and outdoor hazardous chemicals, allergens, irritants, and pollutants. The plan, which shall be reviewed by the District Indoor Air Quality Committee, and adopted by the Board of School Commissioners, and updated periodically, shall include the following elements:

- an assessment of environmental factors that can enhance or detract from student learning and comfort, including lighting, ventilation, temperature, noise, availability of drinking water, and sanitation facilities;
- an assessment of environmental factors that are potentially harmful to human health, including tobacco smoke, pests, mold, pollen, dust mites, lice, animal dander, chalk dust, cleaning agents, scented and unscented personal care products, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), laboratory chemicals, unvented fumes, vehicle exhaust, asbestos, lead and other substances in drinking water, arsenic-treated lumber, radon, and excessive exposure to the sun;
- the plan for the physically isolated storage, safe usage, and proper disposal of cleaning agents and other hazardous chemicals that cannot be eliminated from school buildings and grounds, including using green chemicals whenever possible;
- procedures to ensure the schools' ongoing compliance with maintenance schedules for the clean and efficient operation of heating, ventilation, and plumbing systems;
- procedures for minimizing human exposure to the exhaust of school buses and other vehicles;
- mechanisms for resolving cases of hazardous chemical exposure and air and water quality problems as they occur; and
- specific action steps, strategies, and long-term goals to address identified issues of concern.

The plan shall also include recommendations to update this policy.

The following policy items were developed in conjunction with this plan:

FURNISHINGS AND APPLIANCES.

Furniture, stuffed toys, refrigerators, rugs, and other items may be sources of pests such as lice, fleas, mites, or moth larvae, or may contribute harmful gases such as refrigerant to the classroom environment. Any of these items must have written approval from the superintendent or designee before installation in any classroom environment. Removal of items brought to the school is the responsibility of the teacher or staff.

ANIMALS AND BIRDS.

Live animals with fur or feathers shall not be kept inside classroom buildings because they are a significant asthma "trigger," with the exception of assistive animals such as seeing-eye dogs.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.

Integrated pest management (IPM) and control programs are designed to prevent pest infestations and to minimize human exposure to pesticides shall be implemented in all school buildings and on all school grounds.

SAFE CHEMICALS (replaces Policy ECC)

Biodegradable/environmentally safe products are recommended and are preferred for use in the District. An ongoing cost/benefit analysis should be done as product choices are considered. Any request for proposals shall include a price comparison between biodegradable/environmentally safe products versus traditional products. Only district approved and distributed products may be used, except as approved by the superintendent or designee, e.g., Bleach or other cleaning products.

DIESEL IDLING (replaces Policy EH)

Diesel emissions frequently pervade various portions of the building when school buses and delivery vehicles are idling adjacent to said buildings.

Therefore, Burlington School District will require the following procedures from school buses and diesel delivery and service vehicles:

1. All school buses will warm up their engines away from the school
2. All buses dropping off and picking up students adjacent to school will turn off their engines immediately upon arrival at school and leave engines off until the buses are ready to depart.
3. All delivery vehicles servicing the Burlington School District will turn off their engines while deliveries are underway. An exception to this may be the need for emergency delivery of fuel in order to provide necessary heat for school operation. Delivery times for these vehicles will be requested before school is in session or after school is dismissed for the day.

A copy of these requirements will accompany any contract for services that require delivery to the school.

Development of Procedures:

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, will coordinate and oversee the Healthy Learning Environment Plan. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, will develop district-level procedures necessary to implement this policy. Those procedures will include steps for

notification and prompt investigation of complaints about items included in this policy, and references to disciplinary procedures for policy violations. Those procedures may include ensuring that teachers receive proper training and interpreting this policy at the District level. The Building Administrator, or his/her designee, will be responsible for implementing these procedures at a building level.

LEGAL REFERENCES

VOSHA regulations

Animals in Schools – State/City

Department of Education

Burlington Building Codes

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

ASHRAE 55 AND 62

EPA Tools for Schools

CROSS REFERENCES

EBA Buildings and Grounds Inspection

GBC Possession and Use of Tobacco Products

JHF Hazardous Classroom Materials

REPLACED POLICIES

ECC – Environmentally Safe Product Usage

EH – Diesel Idling Policy

FIRST READING:

February 12, 2008

SECOND READING & ADOPTION:

March 11, 2008