

## **Safety, Operations and Maintenance of School Property**

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### **A. Facilities Maintenance**

The superintendent or superintendent designee will provide a program to maintain the district physical plant and grounds by way of a continuous program of repair, maintenance and reconditioning. Budget recommendations will be made each year to meet these needs and any such needs arising from an emergency.

### **B. Infrastructure Management**

The Mead Board of Directors also desires to maintain the infrastructure of district facilities.

In order to assure state funding, for facilities constructed new or new in lieu after 1994, the board will adopt an asset preservation program (APP). The APP will preserve the district facilities by employing a system of predictive, preventative and proactive processes. Annually, the superintendent or superintendent designee will report to the board on the condition of the facilities and the effectiveness of the APP. Every sixth year an independent assessment will be conducted and reported to the board and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Additionally, the superintendent or superintendent designee will develop a process to evaluate all pre-1994 facilities for possible participation in the asset preservation program.

For initial participation in the APP, the board will submit a resolution to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction committing the district to implement the program.

The superintendent or superintendent designee will develop procedures for the asset preservation program.

### **C. Playground Equipment**

The board recognizes that playground equipment is an essential part of a complete school facility. All playground equipment, whether purchased by the district or donated by a community or school-related group, should be assessed in terms of suitability and durability and for possible health or safety hazards. Consideration will also be given to potential hazards when the playground is unsupervised during non-school hours.

The superintendent or superintendent designee will develop specifications for playground equipment and related play surfaces. These specifications shall serve as criteria for the selection of playground equipment. Selection and installation of playground equipment will be based upon safety and contribution to child development.

### **D. Chemical and Laboratory Safety**

The board recognizes the potential health and safety hazards that exist as a result of chemical storage and handling. Instruction will be emphasized in the safe and proper use of chemicals and substances and proper laboratory techniques. All students and staff are to wear safety glasses or goggles whenever they are working under potentially hazardous conditions. Laboratories should be ventilated sufficiently enough to provide a healthful, nonhazardous environment.

The superintendent or superintendent designee is directed to establish safety guidelines and procedures, which will minimize the hazards inherent in the science classes and laboratories in the schools.

**E. Destruction of School Property**

Staff will ensure that buildings, grounds, equipment and furniture are not abused. Students or non-students who abuse school property may be disciplined and required to pay for the damage incurred.

The superintendent or superintendent designee will establish procedures for the investigation and reporting of damage or loss and will initiate action to collect for damages. A student's grades, transcript or diploma may be withheld until restitution is made.

**F. Indoor Air Quality**

The Mead Board of Directors strives to ensure student, staff and visitor safety. Recognizing that indoor air quality has an impact on a safe and healthy learning environment, it is important that all staff (administrators, teachers and support staff) take an active role in eliminating factors that contribute to indoor air quality issues and potential breathing problems.

We recognize that fragrances and scents can contribute to poor air quality, which can be unhealthy to students and staff. The following are symptoms that can negatively affect a person's health when fragrances are used: headaches, nausea, weakness, upper respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, etc. Individuals with allergies or asthma report that even a small amount of fragrance can trigger a reactive episode. Therefore, the use of fragrance, scented or essential oils, potpourri, candles or devices that emit odors are not permitted for use inside Mead School District buildings.

Upholstered furniture, cushions, pillows, area rugs, beanbag chairs, stuffed animals, etc. collect dust, mites and lice, which may exacerbate allergies, asthma and other health issues. Therefore, any furniture, cushions, pillows, area rugs, beanbag chairs, stuffed animals, etc. not supplied by the school district shall be evaluated and pre-approved for school use by the building administrator and head of the district's Facilities Department.

Improperly stored food can also contribute to unwanted odors and molds. Lack of proper storage can also attract mice. Therefore, all opened food should be stored in Tupperware or other sealable, rodent proof containers.

Cross References: 6511 – Employee Safety Program

Legal References: RCW 28A.335.300 Playground matting

RCW 28A.635.060 Defacing or injuring school property – Liability of pupil, parent, or guardian – Withholding grades, diploma, or transcripts – Suspension and restitution – Voluntary work program as alternative – Rights protected

WAC 392-347-023 State assistance in post 1993 facilities

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