

Buildings and Sites

Health and Environmental Safety Program

I. Purpose

The school district will promote a safe and healthy environment for students, employees, and the public, while striving for compliance with all state and federal laws, and the required guidelines established by the Minnesota Department of Education.

II. Policy

- A. The school district will implement a health and environmental safety program that includes plans and procedures to protect employees, students, volunteers, and members of the general public who enter district buildings and grounds. The objective of the health and environmental safety program is to provide a safe and healthy learning environment; to increase safety awareness; to help prevent accidents, illnesses, and injuries; to reduce liability; to assign duties and responsibilities to district employees to implement and maintain the health and environmental safety program; to establish written procedures for the identification and management of hazards or potential hazards; to train district employees on safe work practices; and to comply with all health and safety, environmental, and occupational health laws, rules, and regulations.
- B. All employees have a responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy environment within the district and are expected to be involved in the health and environmental safety program to the extent practicable. For the purpose of implementing this policy, the district will form a health and environmental safety advisory committee, in compliance with state law. The guidelines for this committee can be found in Appendix I.

The advisory committee will provide recommendations to the administration regarding plans and procedures to implement this policy and to establish procedures for identifying, analyzing, and controlling hazards, minimizing risks, and training district staff on safe work practices. The committee will also recommend procedures for investigating accidents and enforcement of workplace safety rules.

III. District Responsibilities

- A. In accordance with this policy, the school district will:

- a. Identify potential safety hazards;
 - b. Identify employee groups routinely exposed to safety hazards;
 - c. Provide personal protective equipment for employees routinely exposed to these safety hazards
 - d. Train employees on workplace safety;
 - e. Develop health and environmental safety management plans for employee use;
 - f. Support a health and environmental safety committee representing employee groups to promote workplace safety;
 - g. Provide program support with an annual health and environmental safety management budget; and
 - h. Provide a system to maintain records for review by the public and regulatory inspectors.
- B. The district has an emergency management plan which was developed in consultation with local emergency response agencies that addresses prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery from a crisis. Details related to emergency management can be found in Policy 806.
- C. The superintendent will develop administrative guidelines as necessary to assist in the implementation of this policy.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 123B.56 (Health, Safety, and Environmental Management)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.57 (Health and Safety Projects)
Minn. Stat. § 182.676 (Safety Committees)
Minn. Rules Part 5208.0010 (Applicability)
Minn. Rules Part 5208.0040 (Safety Surveys)
Minn. Rules Part 5208.0070 (Alternative Forms of Committee)

Cross References:

Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)
Policy 806 (Emergency Management)

Policy
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revised: 05/13/24
revised: 05/11/26 (Quick Review)

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 273
Edina, Minnesota

Appendix I to Policy 812

Health and Environmental Safety Site Committee Guidelines

1. Members will be selected by their peers or their collective bargaining unit. If there are no volunteers, the school district may select representatives.
2. The number of non-administration representatives on the health and environmental safety committee will equal or exceed the number of district administration representatives on the committee.
3. Meetings will occur according to Minnesota law, and the Minnesota Department of Education.
4. If the district has a modification factor of 1.4 or greater or has a workers' comp premium rate of \$30 or more per \$100 of payroll, then Mock OSHA walkthroughs ("Safety and Health Surveys") will be done by the committee quarterly. If this is not the case, then these walkthroughs will be done as frequently as the committee considers necessary.
5. The health and environmental safety committee will have a system to collect and review suggestions from employees, make recommendations, and review work-related incidents, injuries, and deaths.

Appendix

established: 04/17/17

revised: 05/13/24

revised: 05/11/26 (Quick Review)