

Policy 3510: Green School Operations

Original Adopted Date: 3/13/2024

The Governing Board believes everyone has a responsibility to be a steward of the environment and desires to integrate environmental accountability into all district programs and operations. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to promote district use of "green" school principles and practices in order to conserve natural resources, reduce the impact of district operations on the environment, and protect the health of students, staff, and the community.

In developing such strategies and assessing the environmental conditions in district facilities and operations, the Superintendent or designee shall involve staff at all levels and with varying job responsibilities, including administrators, certificated staff, and classified staff. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee may also consult with health professionals; representatives of local governmental agencies, utilities, solid waste and recycling companies, and community organizations; and/or others with expertise.

In selecting and prioritizing strategies, the Superintendent or designee shall give consideration to long-term potential cost savings, initial costs, feasibility of implementation, quality and performance of the product or service, health impacts, environmental considerations, and potential educational value.

District strategies may include, but are not limited to:

1. Reducing energy and water consumption, and using renewable and clean energy technologies and alternatives when available
2. Establishing recycling programs in district facilities
3. Reducing the consumption of disposable materials by reusing materials and by using electronic rather than paper communications when feasible
4. Using environmentally preferable products and services whenever practical, including, but not limited to, products that:
 - a. Minimize environmental impacts, toxins, pollutants, odors, and hazards
 - b. Contain postconsumer recycled content
 - c. Are durable and long-lasting
 - d. Conserve energy and water
 - e. Reduce waste
5. Using least toxic, independently certified green cleaning products when feasible, as well as high-efficiency cleaning equipment that reduces the need to use chemicals

6. Providing professional development to maintenance staff in the proper use, storage, and disposal of cleaning supplies
7. Using effective, least toxic pest management practices for the control and management of pests
8. Ensuring that any construction of new facilities complies with green building standards pursuant to 24 CCR 101.1-703.1, and focusing on sustainability and student health in the design and implementation of facilities modernization projects
9. Reducing vehicle emissions by:
 - a. Encouraging students to walk or bicycle to school or to use district or public transportation
 - b. Using reduced or zero emission school buses and vehicles and providing accompanying infrastructure such as charging stations
 - c. Limiting unnecessary idling of school buses in accordance with 13 CCR 2480
 - d. Limiting unnecessary idling of personal vehicles by encouraging parents/guardians, through signage or other means of communication, to turn off their vehicles when parked on and around school grounds
2. Implementing green school practices in the district's food service programs by:
 - a. Providing fresh, locally sourced, unprocessed, organic food, including plant-based options, when available
 - b. Reducing food packaging and using packaging that is recyclable and/or biodegradable
 - c. Utilizing reusable products
 - d. Encouraging zero-waste lunches when food is brought from home
 - e. Maintaining a system for food waste, such as composting
 - f. Providing sharing tables where unused cafeteria food items may, in accordance with Health and Safety Code 114079, be returned for student use or donated to a food bank or other nonprofit charitable organization
2. Integrating green school practices and activities into the educational program by providing instruction to students on the importance of the environment, involving students in the implementation and evaluation of green school activities and projects as appropriate, and utilizing green school activities and projects as learning tools

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
13 CCR 2480	Vehicle idling; limitations
2 CCR 1859.70.4	Funding for high performance incentive grants
2 CCR 1859.71.6	Additional grant for high performance incentive; new construction
2 CCR 1859.77.4	Additional grants for high performance incentive; site and modernization
24 CCR 101.1-703.1	Green building standards
5 CCR 14010	Procedure for site acquisition
Ed. Code 101012	Kindergarten through 12th grade school facilities program
Ed. Code 17070.96	Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1996; consideration of high performance standards
Ed. Code 17072.35	New construction grants; use for designs and materials for high performance schools
Ed. Code 17608-17614	Healthy Schools Act of 2000
Ed. Code 32370-32376	Recycling paper
Ed. Code 33541	Science requirements
Ed. Code 8700-8707	Environmental education
F&A Code 13180-13188	Healthy Schools Act of 2000
H&S Code 114079	General food safety requirements; unused or returned food
Pub Cont. Code 12400-12404	Environmentally preferable purchasing
Pub. Res. Code 25410-25422	Energy conservation assistance
Pub. Res. Code 40050-40063	Integrated waste management act
Pub. Res. Code 42630-42647	Schoolsite source reduction and recycling assistance program
Management Resources	Description
California Air Resources Board Publication	School Bus Fleet Webinar, April 20, 2018
CHPS Publication	CHPS Best Practices Manual
Global Green USA Publication	Healthier, Wealthier, Wiser: A Report on National Green Schools
Green Schools Initiative Publication	Green Schools Buying Guide
Healthy Schools Campaign Publication	The Quick and Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools, 2nd ed., 2008
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	U.S. Green Building Council, LEED Green Building Rating System
Website	Global Green USA

Website	Green Schools Initiative
Website	Healthy Schools Campaign
Website	California Air Resources Board
Website	California Department of General Services, Green California
Website	California Energy Commission
Website	Collaborative for High Performance Schools
Website	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Website	CSBA

Cross References

Code	Description
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
3100	Budget
3100	Budget
3270	Sale And Disposal Of Books, Equipment And Supplies
3270	Sale And Disposal Of Books, Equipment And Supplies
3311	Bids
3311	Bids
3460	Financial Reports And Accountability
3460	Financial Reports And Accountability
3511	Energy And Water Management
3511	Energy And Water Management
3511.1	Integrated Waste Management
3511.1	Integrated Waste Management
3514	Environmental Safety
3514	Environmental Safety
3514.1	Hazardous Substances
3514.1	Hazardous Substances

3514.2	<u>Integrated Pest Management</u>
3523	<u>Electronic Signatures</u>
3523	<u>Electronic Signatures</u>
3540	<u>Transportation</u>
3541	<u>Transportation Routes And Services</u>
3550	<u>Food Service/Child Nutrition Program</u>
3550	<u>Food Service/Child Nutrition Program</u>
3551	<u>Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund</u>
3551	<u>Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund</u>
4231	<u>Staff Development</u>
5141.22	<u>Infectious Diseases</u>
5141.22	<u>Infectious Diseases</u>
5141.23	<u>Asthma Management</u>
5141.23	<u>Asthma Management</u>
5142.2	<u>Safe Routes To School Program</u>
5142.2	<u>Safe Routes To School Program</u>
6142.5	<u>Environmental Education</u>
7110	<u>Facilities Master Plan</u>
7111	<u>Evaluating Existing Buildings</u>
7131	<u>Relations With Local Agencies</u>
7150	<u>Site Selection And Development</u>
7150	<u>Site Selection And Development</u>