

## Operational Services

### Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds <sup>1</sup>

The Superintendent shall take all reasonable measures to protect: (1) the safety of District personnel, students, and visitors on District premises from risks associated with hazardous materials, and (2) the environmental quality of the District's buildings and grounds. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> State and/or federal law control this policy's content and require districts to:

1. Have a procedure to comply with the Structural Pest Control Act (225 ILCS 235/) and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act (415 ILCS 65/). See sample administrative procedure 4:160-AP, *Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds*.
2. Designate a staff person to be responsible for district compliance with the safety acts listed in #1 above. This policy designates the superintendent or designee.

Many State and federal laws regulate the environmental quality of schools. For example:

1. Several federal laws regulate asbestos as a hazardous substance, the most significant for schools being the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986. 15 U.S.C. § 2641 *et seq.* The Asbestos Abatement Act, 105 ILCS 105/, requires schools to perform a variety of functions regarding asbestos. Federal and State regulations also require annual notice to parents and employees of the availability of the district's asbestos management plan. 40 C.F.R. §763.93(g)(4); 77 Ill.Admin.Code §855.300(a)(3). This can be inserted in student handbooks; the Ill. Principals Association (IPA) maintains a handbook service that coordinates with **PRESS** material, *Online Model Student Handbook* (MSH), at: [www.ilprincipals.org/msh/](http://www.ilprincipals.org/msh/).
2. The Indoor Air Quality Act, 410 ILCS 87/. The Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality are advisory, i.e., not enforceable. See <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/indoor-air-quality-healthy-homes>.
3. The Smoke-Free Illinois Act, 410 ILCS 82/, bans tobacco smoking inside schools.
4. The Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCS 235/, requires IDPH to establish guidelines for an integrated pest management program for schools. See <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/structural-pest-control/integrated-pest-management>, or <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/structural-pest-control>.
5. Notices to employees and parents/guardians before pesticide applications are required by the Structural Pest Control Act. 225 ILCS 235/10.3. The Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act requires similar notices but only to parents/guardians. 415 ILCS 65/3.
6. The Green Cleaning School Act, 105 ILCS 140/, and Green Cleaning for Elementary and Secondary Schools, 23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 2800, contain guidelines for green cleaning. See sample policy 4:150, *Facility Management and Building Programs*.
7. The Green Buildings Act requires all new State-funded building construction and major renovation projects to meet specified environmental requirements. 20 ILCS 3130/. Waivers may be granted by the Capital Development Board in certain situations. *Id.*
8. The Ill. legislature recommended that each occupied school building be tested every five years for radon and provided a process for the screening in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.48.  
Employers must provide all employees with an education and training program with respect to all toxic substances to which an employee is routinely exposed while working. 820 ILCS 255/16; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.330. However, this section and most of the Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act (820 ILCS 255/) are **inoperative**; its implementing rules (56 Ill.Admin.Code Part 205) were repealed. Instead, the Ill. Dept. of Labor enforces the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standards at 29 C.F.R. §1910.1200. 820 ILCS 255/1.5, amended by P.A. 102-1071. Thus, school districts must follow the federal disclosure and training requirements.
9. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.204 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 103-736, eff. 1-1-25, requires the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), in consultation with IDPH and other stakeholders, to compile resources on indoor air quality for schools and post them on ISBE's website.

<sup>2</sup> A board persuaded by #8 in the above footnote may add the following option:

If economically feasible, the Superintendent or designee shall manage the testing of each occupied school building for radon pursuant to Section 10-20.48 of the School Code.

A board may want to add the following option if it is concerned that employees who are eligible for district-paid hepatitis B vaccination are unaware of their eligibility:

## Pesticides

Pesticides will not be applied on the paved surfaces, playgrounds, or playing fields of any school serving grades K-8 during a school day or partial school day when students are in attendance for instructional purposes.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the application of any restricted use pesticides is prohibited on or within 500 feet of school property during normal school hours.<sup>4</sup> Before pesticides are used on District premises, the Superintendent or designee shall notify employees and parents/guardians of students as required by the Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCS 235/, and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act, 415 ILCS 65/.<sup>5</sup>

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The Superintendent or designee shall notify all employees who must be offered, according to State or federal law, District-paid hepatitis B vaccine and vaccination.

<sup>3</sup> Pesticide Application at Schools Act (PASA), 105 ILCS 160/, added by P.A. 103-496, prohibits schools serving students grades K-8 from scheduling pesticide applications on school grounds during the school day when students are in attendance for instructional purposes. Areas prohibited from treatment include paved surfaces, playgrounds and playing fields, where children are typically present. For High School only districts, delete this sentence, ~~Additionally~~, at the start of the next sentence, and ~~105 ILCS 160/, Pesticide Application at Schools Act~~ from the Legal References.

*Pesticides* is not specifically defined in PASA; however, the Illinois Pesticide Act (IPA) defines both *pesticides* and the subcategory of *restricted use pesticides*. 415 ILCS 60/4. PASA therefore appears broader than the IPA because it applies to *all* pesticides, including those that are not *restricted use pesticides*. See f/n 4, below. However, PASA is narrower than the IPA in two ways. First, PASA's geographic scope is narrower than the IPA because PASA does not apply to "areas of school grounds where children are typically not present, including, but not limited to flower beds and lawns surrounding the school not used as playing fields." *Id.* at 160/15. Second, PASA is narrower in that its prohibition is only in effect when students are in attendance for instruction, compared to the IPA prohibition that applies during *normal school hours and could extend beyond instructional hours*. See f/n 4, below. For ease in administering these slightly different standards, an elementary or unit district may want to follow the more restrictive geographic and temporal prohibitions in the IPA but apply them to all types of pesticides. See sample administrative procedure 4:160-AP, *Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds*.

<sup>4</sup> 415 ILCS 60/14 3.F., added by P.A. 102-548. *Normal school hours* means Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m., excluding days when classes are not in session. *Id.* The statute prohibits restricted pesticide applications during *normal hours* but defines *normal school hours*. This policy uses normal school hours. *State Restricted Pesticide Use* is defined as any pesticide use which the Director (Ill. Dept. of Agriculture or his or her authorized representative) determines, subsequent to public hearing, that an additional restriction for that use is needed to prevent unreasonable adverse effects. *Id.* at 60/4 36.

<sup>5</sup> Different requirements pertain to the notices in the Structural Pest Control Act (225 ILCS 235/10.3) and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act (415 ILCS 65/3(f)). Both require notice to parents/guardians. Notice to employees is only required by the Structural Pest Control Act. For the sake of simplicity, the sample policy requires notice to employees before pesticides are used. Notice at least four business days before application is required by Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act; notice at least two business days is required by the Structural Pest Control Act; and the Illinois Pesticide Act (415 ILCS 60/14 3.F., amended by P.A. 102-548) makes it unlawful to apply a restricted use pesticide on or within 500 feet of school property during normal hours, except for whole structure fumigation, and if the pesticide application information listed on the pesticide label is more restrictive than the law, then the more restrictive provision applies.

If a registry is maintained, replace the last sentence with this alternative:

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a registry of employees and parents/guardians of students requesting notification before the application of pesticide(s) and notify those people as required by the Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCS 235/, and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act, 415 ILCS 65/.

Be sure the notice provisions in the policy and its implementing administrative procedure are consistent.

## Coal Tar Sealant<sup>6</sup>

Before coal tar-based sealant products or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant products are used on District premises, the Superintendent or designee shall notify employees and parents/guardians of students in writing or by telephone as required by the Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.17a; 5/10-20.48.  
29 C.F.R. §1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, as adopted by the Illinois Department of Labor, 56 Ill.Admin.Code §350.700(b).  
29 C.F.R. §1910.1200, Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standards, as adopted by 820 ILCS 255/1.5, Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act.  
20 ILCS 3130/, Green Buildings Act.  
105 ILCS 135/, Toxic Art Supplies in Schools Act.  
105 ILCS 140/, Green Cleaning School Act.  
105 ILCS 160/, Pesticide Application at Schools Act.  
225 ILCS 235/, Structural Pest Control Act.  
415 ILCS 60/14, Illinois Pesticide Act.  
415 ILCS 65/, Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act.  
410 ILCS 170/, Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act.  
820 ILCS 255/, Toxic Substances Disclosure to Employees Act. (inoperative)  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.330.

CROSS REF.: 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 4:170 (Safety)

APPROVED:

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<sup>6</sup> 410 ILCS 170/10(a)(1)-(4), added by P.A. 102-242, requires schools to provide written or telephonic notification to employees and parents/guardians of students prior to any application of a coal tar-based sealant product or a high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant product. Written notifications must: (1) be included in newsletters, bulletins, calendars, or other correspondence currently published by the district (this is the only prong of written notice that is permissive); (2) be given at least 10 business days before the application and should identify the intended date and location of the application of the coal tar-based sealant product or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant; (3) include the name and telephone contact number for the school or day care center (if the district has one) personnel responsible for the application; and (4) include any health hazards associated with coal tar-based sealant product or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant product, as provided by a corresponding safety data sheet.

Districts may want to include numbers (3) and (4) in their student handbooks. The IPA maintains a handbook service that coordinates with PRESS material, Online Model Student Handbook (MSH), at: [www.ilprincipals.org/msh/](http://www.ilprincipals.org/msh/).