
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Background

The Division is committed to providing leadership in protecting the quality and integrity of the natural environment. It aims to offer educational programs which develop the understanding, ability and motivation for individuals to minimize adverse impact on the environment, and to participate effectively as citizens in environmental decision-making and policy setting. It further seeks to operate all schools and facilities in an environmentally responsible manner, minimizing institutional impacts on the environment and facilitating environmentally responsible actions by individual users.

Procedures

1. Hazardous Waste Reduction and Safety

- 1.1 Encourage maximum possible reductions in the amounts of hazardous waste generated by:
 - 1.1.1 Substituting other environmentally safe products for those which are, or can become hazardous; and
 - 1.1.2 Reducing volumes of hazardous products used for which there is no practical alternative.
- 1.2 Require all personnel to meet or exceed all standards and regulations for the safe storage, handling, and disposal of any hazardous wastes, and provide suitable training to all appropriate personnel.
- 1.3 Discourage the use of any form of pesticides and/or herbicides in the treatment of school grounds.

2. Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

- 2.1 Encourage less generation of solid waste by reducing consumption, re-using materials, and recycling remaining waste wherever possible.

3. Energy and Water Conservation

- 3.1 Make every reasonable effort to conserve energy and water by:
 - 3.1.1 Building and renovating towards energy and water efficiency in schools and buildings; and
 - 3.1.2 Implementing energy and water conservation programs which are regularly monitored and reported to the Office of the Superintendent and to all participants.

4. Environmental Purchasing

- 4.1 Make every reasonable effort to seek out and purchase products, resources and services which have the lowest possible adverse impact on the environment.

5. Environmental and Outdoor Education

- 5.1 Actively encourage environmental and outdoor education programs which lead to a high level of environmental awareness and effective environmental citizenship by:
 - 5.1.1 Providing staff with professional development support for environmental understanding and skills;
 - 5.1.2 Placing environmental literacy into the content and methodology of instructional programs in all divisions; and
 - 5.1.3 Empowering and supporting student, parent, community and educator partnerships in developing opportunities for classroom, school, and community environmental actions.

6. Landscaping and Wildlife Habitat

- 6.1 Promote the retention of natural landscaping on Division property.

7. Implementation Objectives and Plans

- 7.1 Objectives and action plans will be developed, implemented and evaluated by principals in consultation with staff and community.

Reference: Section 33,52,53,68,196,197,204,222,225 Education Act
Occupational Health and Safety Act
Public Health Act

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