



# Washington State Board of Health

School Environmental Health and Safety, Chapters 246-366 & 246-366A WAC

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# Kaitlyn Donahoe, MPA

## Policy Advisor, State Board of Health



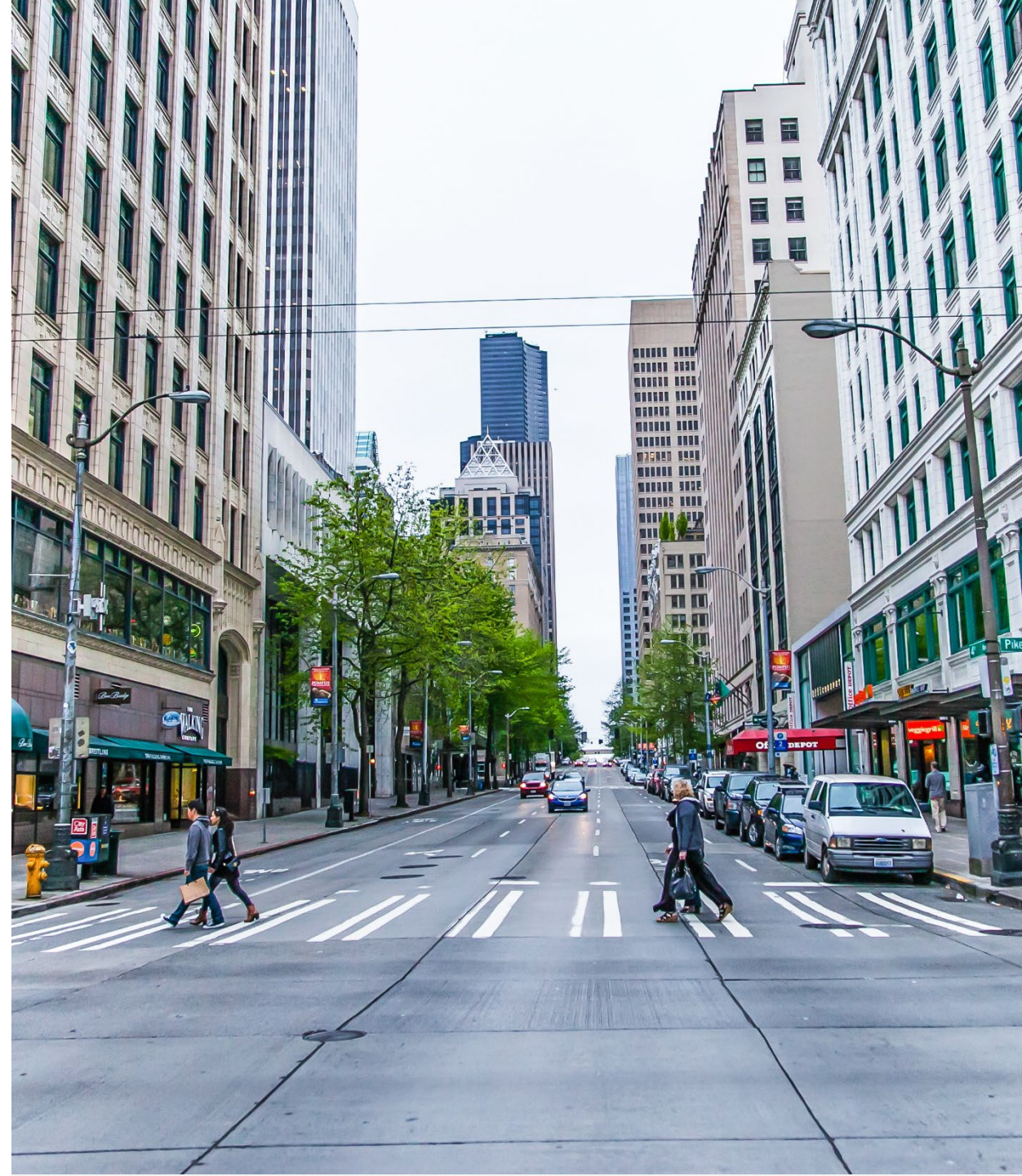
# Overview

- Background
- Prior Board Action
- Recent Legislative Action
- Potential Future Revisions
- Next Steps



# Background

- The Board has the authority under RCW 43.20.050 to set environmental public health standards for schools
- In August 2009, the Board adopted new sections of chapter 246-366 WAC, Primary and Secondary Schools, and established a new chapter 246-366A, Environmental Health and Safety Standards for Primary and Secondary Schools
- These rules provide minimum environmental health and safety standards for all schools in Washington





# Background

- Before the rules could be implemented the 2009 Legislature adopted a budget proviso suspending implementation of the rules until the Legislature acts to formally fund implementation
- The proviso has been included in all subsequent state operating budgets
- The Board agreed to review actions of the Legislature at the end of each session to determine whether any portions of the rules could be implemented





# Prior Board Action

The Board took action to delay the effective date of the school rules at these meetings:

- March 10, 2010
- April 13, 2011
- March 13, 2013
- March 11, 2015
- June 14, 2017
- June 12, 2019
- June 9, 2021





# Recent Board Action

- In 2021 the Board elected to extend the effective date by one year and authorized the Chair to write a letter to the Governor and appropriate parties asking to remove the proviso
- Board staff met with the Governor's office, Department of Health, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Financial Management, and select legislators to discuss the school rules and budget proviso





# Recent Legislative Action (2022)

- The 2021-2023 supplemental state operating budget retained the proviso preventing implementation of the school rules
- Funding allocated to DOH to contract with UW to develop a report regarding school environmental health policies and recommendations
- House budget proposed revisions to the proviso language that would allow implementation an assessment of school environmental health and safety (did not advance)





# Potential Future Revisions

- Update references to federal laws, rules, and/or guidance
- Align with recent state legislation (i.e., E2SHB 1139, addressing lead in school drinking water)
- Consider the need for new standards to address climate change, severe adverse weather events, wildfires, indoor air quality, etc.
- Review rules and associated analyses using an equity and environmental justice lens





# Next Steps

- The current effective date of these rules is August 1, 2022.
- The Board will need to file a new CR-103 before August 2022 to extend the effective date for certain sections of chapter 246-366 WAC and new chapter 246-366A.
- Until the budget proviso is lifted and the Board is able to implement the updated school rules, the existing chapter (246-366) remains in effect.



# | THANK YOU