

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: March 8, 2023

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Keith Grellner, Chair

Subject: Findings of the University of Washington Report on School Environmental Health & Safety

Background and Summary:

The legislature included a proviso in the 2021-23 state operating budget (ESSB 5693) directing the Washington Department of Health (Department) to contract with the University of Washington to research and develop a report by December 31, 2022, regarding school environmental health and safety policies and standards. Specifically, the proviso called for the report to include:

- A review of policies and regulations in other states pertaining to environmental health in K-12 schools;
- Literature and recommendations for exposure standards and remediation levels which are protective of health and safety for students in schools;
- A summary of activities, such as inspections, management, control levels, and remediation of a variety of contaminants and issues, including PCBs, lead, asbestos, poor ventilation, and mold; and
- Recommendations for next steps for policies and standards in Washington schools.

Today, Juan Gamez Briceno of the Department will brief the State Board of Health (Board) on the findings of the University of Washington report. Mr. Gamez Briceno manages programs for schools, lodging, and other issues in the Department's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. This is an informational briefing involving no Board action.

This research intersects Board interests and authority regulating school environmental health and safety. While not the focus of today's presentation, as a reminder, chapter 246-366 WAC, Primary and Secondary Schools, serves as the Board's active school rules. Implementation of chapter 246-366A WAC, Environmental Health and Safety Standards for Primary and Secondary Schools, remains blocked by a proviso in the state operating budget.

Staff

Stuart Glasoe

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