

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: June 12, 2024

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Patty Hayes, Board Chair

Subject: School Environmental Health and Safety Rules Review Project

Background and Summary:

During the 2024 legislative session, the Legislature included a new budget proviso ([2024 supplemental operating budget](#) (Section 222, subsection 159 (page 491- 492))) that directs the State Board of Health (Board) to review and draft new proposed rules to set minimum health and safety standards for K-12 schools. The proviso also requires the Board to:

Conduct the rule review in collaboration with the Department of Health and a multi-disciplinary technical advisory committee (TAC). At a minimum, the TAC must consist of representatives from the:

- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI),
- Small and large school districts,
- Washington Association of School Administrators,
- Washington State School Directors Association,
- Washington Association of Maintenance and Operations Administrators, and,
- Washington Association of School Business Officials.

In developing the draft proposed rule, the Board must consider the size of school districts, regional cost differences, the age of schools, and any other variables that may affect rule implementation. The Board has also been tasked with developing a report in collaboration with OSPI, the Department of Health, the TAC, and local health jurisdictions. The report must prioritize the sections or subject areas that provide the greatest health and safety benefits for students, and any other implementation recommendations. This work must be completed and submitted to the Legislature and the Governor's office by June 30, 2025.

Staff will file a CR-101 to formally initiate the rule drafting process and notify interested parties of the work.

Recommended Board Actions:

This is an informational update, not requiring any Board action.

Staff

Andrew Kamali

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