

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

**Date:** March 12, 2025

**To:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**From:** Patty Hayes, Board Chair

**Subject:** School Environmental Health and Safety Rule Review Project

## **Background and Summary:**

During the 2024 legislative session, the Legislature included a proviso in the [2024 supplemental operating budget](#) (Section 222, subsection 159, page 491- 492) that directed 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 requires the Board to conduct the rule review in collaboration with the Department of Health and a multi-disciplinary technical advisory committee (TAC).

The proviso also tasks the Board with developing a report in collaboration with the Office of Superintendent and Public Instruction (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. The Board must also complete an environmental justice assessment. This work must be completed and submitted to the Legislature and the Governor's office by June 30, 2025.

Since August of 2024, the Board's School Environmental Health and Safety TAC has conducted 13 full meetings and three subcommittee meetings to complete the draft rule. The rule has undergone an informal comment period, and the TAC reviewed those comments and considered them when making content changes to the proposed rule. In developing this rule, the Board has developed a fiscal analysis in collaboration with the TAC, OSPI, and industry partners.

The Board has also conducted substantial community outreach and offered several listening sessions across the state and online. Staff has shared the feedback collected at these sessions with the TAC for their consideration. Listening session participants included parents, students, teachers, and support staff, their perspectives were critically important to developing the practical aspects of the proposed rule.

Today, I have invited Project Manager Andrew Kamali, Board staff Nina Helpling, and the Department's Assistant Secretary of Environmental Public Health Lauren Jenks, to provide a more in-depth discussion on the process and outcomes of the school rule project.

## **Recommended Board Actions:**

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

## **Staff**

Andrew Kamali, School Rule Project Manager

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