



School Environmental Health and Safety Rule

Project Update

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WASHINGTON STATE 
BOARD OF HEALTH

Overview

- Proviso
- Process
- Community Engagement
- Summary of Changes

Proviso

Funding & Purpose

- \$750,000 allocated for FY 2025 to update school health & safety rules.
- Goal: Establish minimum statewide health & safety standards for schools.

Key Considerations

- School district size & regional cost differences.
- Age of schools & feasibility of phased implementation.
- Other variables impacting rule implementation.

Proviso

Advisory Committee Composition

- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Small & large school districts
- WA Association of School Administrators
- WA State School Directors' Association
- WA Association of Maintenance & Operations Administrators
- WA Association of School Business Officials

Process & Collaboration

1. Develop draft rules with advisory committee input.
2. Review draft rules with advisory committee and gather feedback.
3. Conduct fiscal analysis with OSPI, considering:
 - District size
 - cost differences
 - school age
 - implementation costs
4. Perform environmental justice assessments on proposed rules.

Proviso

Final Report

- Due June 30, 2025
- Sections prioritized with the greatest student health & safety benefits
- Recommended implementation order
- Additional recommendations for rule implementation

Collaboration

- OSPI
- State Board of Health
- Department of Health
- Advisory committee
- Local health jurisdictions

Process - Representation

Associations

- Association of Washington School Principals
- School OPS
- The Rural Alliance
- Washington Association of Maintenance & Operations Administrators (WAMOA)
- Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA)
- Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO)
- Washington Education Association
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO)
- Washington State Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Public School Districts

- Auburn
- Bellingham Public Schools\
- Evergreen (Clark County)
- Inchelum
- Lake Washington
- Richland
- South Kitsap
- Spokane

Private Schools

- Washington Federation of Independent Schools
- Washington State Catholic Conference/Catholic Schools

Health Districts

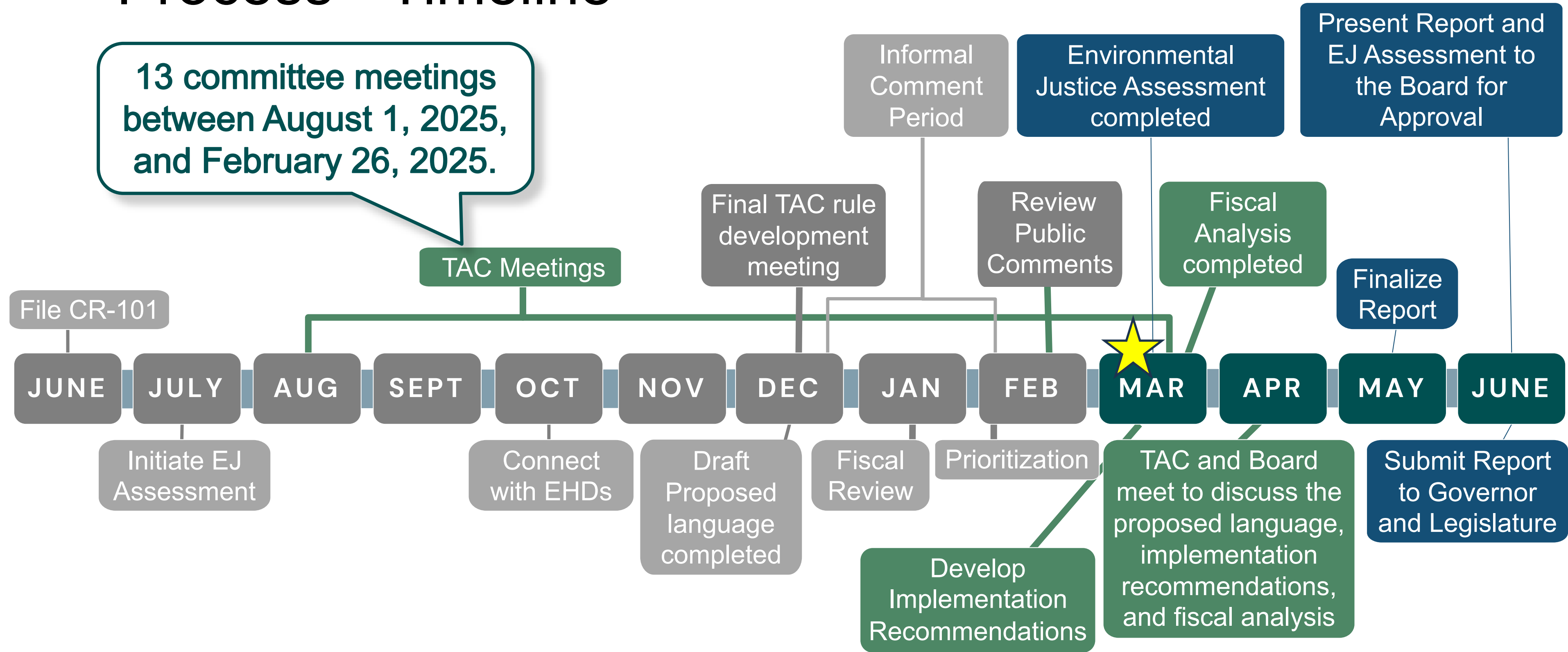
- Spokane
- Benton-Franklin
- Whatcom

State Agencies

- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Washington State Department of Health (Department)
- Washington State Board of Health (Board)

Process - Timeline

13 committee meetings
between August 1, 2025,
and February 26, 2025.



Community Engagement

- In-Person Listening Sessions held throughout WA State, 2024 – 2025
 - Yakima
 - Olympia
 - Spokane
 - Tri-Cities
 - Vancouver
 - Auburn
- 3 Online Listening Sessions
 - 1 daytime and 2 evening sessions
- Tribal outreach:
 - 29 Tribes with a Tribal Listening Session
 - 12 Tribal educational or community organizations
- 9 Educational School Districts
 - 24 school districts
 - Flyers to families of 198,232 students
 - 364 schools contacted
- Community outreach:
 - Latino
 - BIPOC
 - LGBTQ
 - Disability
 - Other community-based organizations

Summary of Changes

WAC 246-370-001 Purpose

Combined: Introduction statement with Purpose statement

WAC 246-370-005 Definitions

Added: 24 New definitions

Removed: 5 Obsolete definitions

Modernized: 3 Existing definitions

No Change: 2 Existing definitions

WAC 246-370-010 Applicability

Referenced: Existing regulations:

- Food handling and preparation
- Water recreation
- Sewer and liquid waste disposal
- Carbon monoxide detection
- Drinking water

Referenced: Exceptions to chapter 246-370 WAC including:

- Facilities licensed under Title 110 WAC – Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Home-based instruction
- Locations that provide education services, but education is not the primary function of the facility
- Private tutoring
- Post secondary schools
- State-tribal education compact schools

Summary of Changes

WAC 246-370-015 Guidance

Updated: Language—no substantive changes

WAC 246-370-020 Site Assessment

Added: Local Health Officer (LHO) may require a site assessment for construction projects on existing school facilities.

Added: School officials must:

- Have a Phase 1 Site Assessment
- Notify LHO at least 90 days prior to planning new construction
- Submit site assessments to LHOs

Added: LHOs must:

- Review site assessments
- Provide written approval within 60 days of receiving a completed site assessment

WAC 246-370-030 Construction Plan Review New, Alterations, and Portable

Added: Specifications for types of construction that might require plan review

Added: Set timelines for school officials and LHOs to review construction plans

WAC 246-370-040 Routine Inspection

Added: Routine inspection frequency

Added: Allow a trained LHO designee to perform additional inspections

Summary of Changes

WAC 246-370-050 General Building Requirements

Added: Backflow devices on housekeeping sinks.

Added: Bathrooms and handwashing facilities are available during school hours and scheduled events.

WAC 246-370-060 Showers and Restrooms*

- Added:** At new construction or renovation
- Must have 1 shower per 15 individuals per each gender participating in physical education or sports teams.
 - Must have 1 toilet per 15 individuals with up to 10% of the fixtures being urinals.

* Section subject to change pending TAC review

WAC 246-370-080 Indoor Air Quality

New Section: Sets prescribed indoor air quality requirements like radon testing and pest management planning.

New Section: Sets prescribed ventilation requirements like outdoor air intake rates.

WAC 246-370-090 Temperature

Added: Maximum and minimum temperature requirements.

Added: Requirement for the implementation of an extreme temperature readiness plan.

WAC 246-370-100 Noise

Updated: Language—no substantive changes

Summary of Changes

WAC 246-370-110 Lighting

- **Updated:** Language—no substantive changes.

WAC 246-370-120 Injury Prevention

- **Added:** Fall protection from balconies or orchestra pits and storage of unsecured equipment.
- **Added:** Updated language for chemical storage.
- **Added:** Fragrance-free and low-hazard cleaning requirements.
- **Added:** Injury and communicable disease prevention planning when animals are allowed in school.

WAC 246-370-130 Imminent Health Hazard

- **New Section:** Sets prescribed imminent health hazard requirements for hazards like sewage spillage.

WAC 246-370-140 Playgrounds

- **New Section:** Sets prescribed installation and maintenance requirements for playgrounds.

WAC 246-370-150 Specialized Rooms

- **New Section:** Sets prescribed requirements for specialized rooms like health rooms, laboratories, and wood shops.

Summary of Changes

WAC 246-370-160 Variances

- Updated: Language—no substantive changes

WAC 246-370-170 Severability

- Updated: Language—no substantive changes

WAC 246-370-180 Appeals

- Updated: Language—no substantive changes

THANK YOU

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