

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: April 9, 2025

To: Washington State Board of Health Members

From: Patty Hayes, Board Chair

Subject: School Environmental Health and Safety Rule Project Technical Advisory Committee – Final Recommendations

Background and Summary:

During the 2024 legislative session, the Legislature passed a proviso included 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 tasks the Board with developing a report in collaboration with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Health, a multi-disciplinary technical advisory committee, and local health jurisdictions. This report must identify the sections or subject areas that offer the greatest health and safety benefits to students and include any related implementation recommendations. In addition, the Board must complete an environmental justice assessment. The Board must submit a final report to the Legislature and the Governor's Office by June 30, 2025.

Since August 2024, the Board's School Environmental Health and Safety committee convened 15 full meetings and three subcommittee meetings to develop the draft rule. An informal comment period gathered public feedback that the committee carefully reviewed and incorporated when refining the proposed rule. The Board also produced a fiscal analysis in partnership with the committee, OSPI, and industry partners.

Board staff conducted extensive community outreach, including in-person and online listening sessions throughout the state. Feedback from parents, students, teachers, and support staff proved vital in shaping practical aspects of the proposed rule, and the committee gave thorough consideration to this input.

The committee has finalized the draft language for the proposed rule, Chapter 246-370 WAC. Today, committee members will share with the Board how they developed the rule. They will also discuss the proposal's content, its fiscal analysis, and the key themes they will highlight in the forthcoming report to the Legislature. Following discussion with the committee today, the Board will take action on the next steps relating to the draft proposed rule, Chapter 246-370 WAC.

Recommended Board Actions:

The Board accepts the technical advisory committee's recommendations regarding the proposed rule, Chapter 246-370 WAC, and directs staff to begin the process of repealing Chapter 246-366A WAC and any other items articulated in conversation today.

Or

The Board directs staff to continue refining the proposed rule, Chapter 246-370 WAC, in collaboration with the members of the technical advisory committee.

Staff

Andrew Kamali