



Washington State Board of Health

School Environmental Health and Safety: Chapter 246-366 and Chapter 246-366A WAC
Effective Date Extension

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Overview

- Background
- Prior Board Action
- Potential Future Revisions
- Next Steps

Background

- The Board has the authority under RCW 43.20.050 to set environmental public health standards for schools
- In August 2009, the Board adopted new sections of chapter 246-366 WAC, Primary and Secondary Schools, as well as new chapter 246-366A, Environmental Health and Safety Standards for Primary and Secondary Schools
- These rules provide minimum environmental health and safety standards for schools



Background

- Before the rules could be implemented the 2009 Legislature adopted a budget proviso suspending implementation of the rules until the Legislature acts to formally fund implementation
- The proviso has been included in all subsequent state operating budgets
- The Board agreed to review actions of the Legislature at the end of each session to determine whether any portions of the rules could be implemented



Prior Board Action

The Board took action to delay the effective date of the school rules on:

- March 10, 2010
- April 13, 2011
- March 13, 2013
- March 11, 2015
- June 14, 2017
- June 12, 2019

The proviso was retained in the 2021-2023 state operating budget.



Potential Future Revisions

- References to federal laws, rules, and/or guidance
- Alignment with recent state legislation
- Consideration of new standards (e.g., indoor air quality)
- Reviewing rules and associated analysis using an equity and environmental justice lens



Next Steps

- The current effective date of these rules is August 1, 2021.
- The Board will need to file a new CR-103 before August 2021 to extend the effective date for certain sections of chapter 246-366 WAC and new chapter 246-366A.
 - The effective date will be extended to August 1, 2023.
- Until the budget proviso is lifted and we are able to implement the updated school rules, the existing chapter (246-366) remains in effect.

| THANK YOU