

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Hazardous Material in Schools

Green Cleaning Program

Cleaning chemicals can negatively impact indoor air quality and cause harm to the occupants of a school building. Therefore, the purpose of this policy is to encourage and promote the principles of green cleaning throughout the Putnam Public Schools, in compliance with applicable statutes. The Board of Education encourages and supports efforts to implement green cleaning in all District schools.

It is the policy of the Putnam Public Schools to achieve the maintenance of clean, safe, and healthy schools through the elimination of contaminants that affect children and adult health, performance and attendance and the implementation of cleaning processes and products that protect health without harming the environment.

The Board of Education will reduce exposure of school building occupants to potentially hazardous chemical cleaning products by adopting this Green Cleaning policy which requires the use of cleaning products in the schools that meet the guidelines or standards set by a national or international certification program approved by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection in order to minimize the potential harmful effects on human health and the environment.

The transition to environmentally and health-friendly cleaning and/or sanitizing products shall be accomplished as soon as possible and in a manner that avoids the waste of existing inventories, accommodates establishment of supply chains for new products, enables the training of personnel in appropriate work practices, and allows the phase-out of products and practices inconsistent with this policy.

Definitions

“Green Cleaning Program” means the procurement and proper use of environmentally preferable cleaning products in school buildings and facilities.

“Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products” means products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. Such products must be approved by a Department of Administrative Services (DAS)-approved national or international certification program. This term includes, but is not limited to, general purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, glass and carpet cleaners, hand cleaners and soaps, and floor finishes and strippers. Excluded are any disinfectant, disinfecting cleaner, sanitizer or any other antimicrobial products regulated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Also excluded are products for which no guidelines or environmental standard has been established by any national or international certification program approved by the Department of Administrative Services or which is outside the scope of or is otherwise excluded under guidelines or environmental standards established by such a national or international certification program.

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Hazardous Material in Schools

Green Cleaning Program (continued)

Notice Requirements

Annually the District will give to members of the school staff and to parents/guardians who request it, a written copy of this policy. In addition, this written statement shall also include:

- a. the names and types of environmentally preferable cleaning products used in the schools and where in the buildings they are applied;
- b. the schedule for applying the products; and
- c. the name of the school administrator or designee whom the parent/guardian or student may contact for more information.

The notice shall also contain the following statement: ***“No parent, guardian, teacher, or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect.”***

In addition, parents/guardians of any child who transfers during the school year, or a new staff member hired during the school year shall be notified of this green cleaning policy.

The Board will also make available on its website a copy of this green cleaning policy. *(If no website is available the Board must make the policy publicly available or available upon request.)*

The Board will report to the Commissioner of Education on its green cleaning program, in a manner and frequency prescribed by the Commissioner.

(cf. 3524 – Hazardous Materials in Schools)

(cf. 3524.1 – Pesticide Application)

(cf. 7230.2 – Indoor Air Quality)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-220 Duties of boards of education (as amended by P.A. 09-81 and P.A. 11-136)
 10-231a through 10-231d. Pesticide applications at schools
 10-231g Green Cleaning Program at schools: Definitions, Implementation, Notice.
 22a-46. Short title: Connecticut Pesticide Control Act.
 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 7 U.S. Code 136 et seq.

Policy adopted: May 21, 2019

PUTNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Putnam, Connecticut

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

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Green Cleaning Program

To reduce exposure of school building occupants to potentially hazardous chemical contaminants, the District will fully implement a Green Cleaning Program that requires compliance with the following guidelines:

1. In order to comply with the policy pertaining to green cleaning and applicable state statute, the District shall specify, buy and use where practicable, only Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) in District owned and leased facilities.
2. Vendors that are contracted by the District to perform janitorial and custodial services are also required to use, wherever practicable, Environmentally Preferable Products in the execution of their contractual obligations to the District.
3. Cleaning products regulated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, such as disinfectants, disinfecting cleaners and sanitizers are excluded.
4. Also excluded are products (1) for which no DAS-approved certification program has established a guideline or environmental standard, (2) that fall outside the scope of such guidelines or standards, or (3) that are otherwise excluded under such guidelines or standards.
5. Environmentally Preferable Products which are a part of the District's Green Cleaning Program include products which must be approved by a Department of Administrative Services (DAS)-approved national or international certification program. This includes general purpose, bathroom, glass and carpet cleaners, hand cleaners and soaps, and floor finishes and strippers.
6. The DAS has contracts in place with vendors to provide EPP cleaners and sanitizers. The District shall utilize this resource whenever possible and fiscally worthwhile.
7. The following steps shall be taken when procuring EPP products:
 - a. Determine the need and intended use for the cleaning product and review the options for EPP cleaners and sanitizers available. EPP items shall be purchased for intended use whenever practicable. In a case where the use of an EPP cleaner or sanitizer is not practicable, the reason for not using an EEP product should be documented and kept on file.
 - b. Consult with DAS contracted vendors of EEP cleaning products for information and training on the use of these products.

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Hazardous Material in Schools

Green Cleaning Program (continued)

- c. Carefully review product Material Safety Data Sheets, usage recommendations and manufacturer's usage instructions prior to purchase, even if the product has been certified by DAS. (e.g. "Green Seal Certified" or Eco Logo)
8. In order to ensure the health and safety of school children and employees as well as the effectiveness of the products to be purchased, the products must meet guidelines or environmental standards set by a national or international environmental certification program approved by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. Examples of such third-party approved certifications include "Green Seal" and "EcoLogo".

Notice Requirements

Annually members of the school staff and parents/guardians who request it, are to be given a written copy of the green cleaning policy. In addition, this written statement shall also include:

- the names and types of environmentally preferable cleaning products used in the schools and where in the buildings they are applied;
- the schedule for applying the products; and
- the name of the school administrator or designee whom the parent/guardian or student may contact for more information.

The notice shall also contain the following statement: ***"No parent, guardian, teacher, or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect."***

In addition, parents/guardians of any child who transfers during the school year, or a new staff member hired during the school year shall be notified of the green cleaning policy.

A copy of the green cleaning policy will also be posted on the district's/school website. *(If no website is available the Board must make the policy publicly available (student/parent handbooks) or available upon request.)*

Definitions

"Green Cleaning Program" means the procurement and proper use of environmentally preferable cleaning products in school buildings and facilities.

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Hazardous Material in Schools

Green Cleaning Program

Definitions (continued)

“Environmentally Preferable Products” means products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. Such products must be approved by a Department of Administrative Services (DAS)-approved national or international certification program. This term includes general purpose, bathroom, glass and carpet cleaners, hand cleaners and soaps, and floor finishes and strippers. Excluded are antimicrobial products regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, such as disinfectants, disinfecting cleaners and sanitizers. Also excluded are products (1) for which no DAS-approved certification program has established a guideline or environmental standard, (2) that fall outside the scope of such guidelines or standards, or (3) that are otherwise excluded under such guidelines or standards.

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