

Environmental Health and Safety of School Facilities Policy

The Milton School Committee, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws c. 71 Section 68 has the responsibility to supervise the schoolhouses in the town and to keep them in good order. The Milton School Committee and the Environmental Health and Safety Subcommittee of the School Committee, work to protect the health and safety of school occupants and to promote a healthy learning environment.

The Environmental health and Safety Subcommittee of the School Committee works to:

1. Maintain a healthy indoor environment by taking a proactive approach to preventing indoor air quality (IAQ) problems before they occur;
2. Identify and address IAQ problems where feasible;
3. Reduce the use of toxic products **and materials** in our schools and on the grounds under the responsibility of the school system;
4. Serve as a resource to the school community during school construction and renovation

In accordance with its interest in accomplishing the above goals and cognizant of the existence of federal, state and local environmental and health and safety laws and regulations, the Milton School Committee seeks to incorporate toxic-use reduction and pollution prevention measures where at all possible and within the financial constraints of the district by:

1. Evaluating alternative practices that would eliminate or reduce use of toxic products **and materials**;
2. Maintaining a system for purchasing and disposing of all school products;
3. **Using** bid guidelines and contracts, where appropriate, to request the use of non-toxic or less-toxic products **and materials** by contractors and consultants in fulfilling contractual obligations with the school department;
4. Providing **opportunities for** staff awareness on the appropriate practices and procedures endorsed by this policy that promote the health and safety of school building occupants

In regard to any new or renovated school building projects, the School Committee endorses and promotes a design of facilities that supports healthy learning and incorporating elements of “green” sustainable building design as well as toxic-use reduction principles where feasible. In addition, the School Committee places the highest priority on maintaining the health and safety of school occupants during the construction and/or renovation phase of any building project.

Furthermore, the School Committee recognizes the importance of maintaining an Environmental Health and Safety Subcommittee for a continuing evaluation of the effectiveness of the environmental health and safety policies regarding the schools. The School Committee sanctions addressing environmental and conservation issues in the school curriculum and encourages students, parents and the school community at large to be cognizant of same.