

CSBA Sample

Board Policy

Green School Operations

BP 3510

Business and Noninstructional Operations

Note: The following optional policy may be revised to reflect district practice. Districts are encouraged to review CSBA's policy brief, Green Schools: An Overview of Key Policy Issues, when developing policy on this topic. In addition, to ensure consistency, districts may want to review other related policies and administrative regulations (e.g., BP/AR 3511 - Energy and Water Management, BP/AR 3511.1 - Integrated Waste Management, BP/AR 3514 - Environmental Safety, BP/AR 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances, AR 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management, BP 6142.5 - Environmental Education, and BP/AR 7150 - Site Selection and Development).

The Governing Board believes that all citizens have a responsibility to be stewards of the environment and desires to integrate environmental accountability into all district operations. The Superintendent or designee shall promote green school practices that conserve natural resources, reduce the impact of district operations on the environment, and protect the health of students, staff, and community.

The Superintendent or designee may involve district and site administrators and operations and maintenance staff; representatives of local governmental agencies, utilities, solid waste and recycling companies, and community organizations; health professionals; and/or others as appropriate in the assessment of current district operations and the development of strategies to improve the environmental impact of district operations.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 7131 - Relations with Local Agencies)

In selecting and prioritizing strategies, the Superintendent or designee shall give consideration to the initial cost, long-term potential cost savings, quality and performance of the product or service, health impacts, and environmental considerations.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)
(cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)

Such strategies may include, but not be limited to:

1. Reducing energy and water consumption and exploring renewable and clean energy technologies

(cf. 3511 - Energy and Water Management)

2. Establishing recycling programs in district facilities

(cf. 3511.1 - Integrated Waste Management)

3. Reducing the consumption of disposable materials, by reusing materials and by using electronic rather than paper communications when feasible

Note: The California Department of General Services, the Green Schools Initiative, the Healthy Schools Campaign, and other groups provide information on environmentally preferable purchasing, including sources of environmentally preferable products.

4. Purchasing and using environmentally preferable products and services whenever practical, including, but not limited to, products that:

- a. Minimize environmental impacts, toxins, pollutants, odors, and hazards
- b. Contain postconsumer recycled content
- c. Are durable and long-lasting

- d. Conserve energy and water
- e. Produce a low amount of waste

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)
(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)
(cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)
(cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)
(cf. 6161.3 - Toxic Art Supplies)

- 5. Using least toxic, independently certified green cleaning products when feasible, as well as high-efficiency cleaning equipment that reduces the need to use chemicals
- 6. Providing professional development to maintenance staff in the proper use, storage, and disposal of cleaning supplies

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

Note: The Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1D) includes funding for High Performance Incentive grants to augment new construction and modernization projects that use designs and materials that promote energy and water efficiency, maximize the use of natural lighting, improve indoor air quality, use recycled materials and materials that emit a minimum of toxic substances, and use acoustics that are conducive to teaching and learning (Education Code 101012; 8 CCR 1859.70.4, 1859.71.6, 1859.77.4). Criteria for the incentive grants were modeled after standards developed by the nonprofit Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS), but were modified to meet the purposes of the grant program. Sustainable designs can also be achieved through the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards or other high performance standards.

- 7. Focusing on green building standards, sustainability, and student health in facilities construction and modernization projects, including decisions about site selection, building design, and landscaping and grounds

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)
(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

Note: Optional item #8 below should be revised by districts that do not provide home-to-school transportation.

- 8. Reducing vehicle traffic by encouraging students to walk or bicycle to school or use district or public transportation

(cf. 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services)
(cf. 5142.2 - Safe Routes to School Program)

- 7. Providing fresh, unprocessed, organic food in the district's food services program

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

- 8. Providing instruction to students on the importance of the environment and involving students in the implementation and evaluation of green school activities and projects as appropriate

(cf. 6142.5 - Environmental Education)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8700-8707 Environmental education

17070.96 Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1996, consideration of high performance standards

17072.35 New construction grants; use for designs and materials for high performance schools

32370-32376 Recycling paper

33541 Environmental education

101012 Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006, allocations

PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE

12400-12404 Environmentally preferable purchasing
PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE
25410-25421 Energy conservation assistance
40050-40063 Integrated waste management act
42630-42647 Schoolsite source reduction and recycling
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
14010 Standards for school site selection
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8
1859.70.4 Funding for high performance incentive grants
1859.71.6 Additional grant for high performance incentive, new construction
1859.77.4 Additional grants for high performance incentive, site and modernization

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Green Schools: An Overview of Key Policy Issues, Policy Brief, August 2009

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Best Practices Manual

COLLABORATIVE FOR HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS PUBLICATIONS

CHPS Best Practices Manual, 2006

GLOBAL GREEN USA PUBLICATIONS

Healthier, Wealthier, Wiser: A Report on National Green Schools

GREEN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Green Schools Buying Guide

HEALTHY SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN PUBLICATIONS

The Quick and Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools, 2nd ed., 2008

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of General Services, Green California: <http://www.green.ca.gov>

California Energy Commission: <http://www.energy.ca.gov>

Collaborative for High Performance Schools: <http://www.chps.net>

Global Green USA: <http://www.globalgreen.org>

Green Schools Initiative: <http://www.greenschools.net>

Healthy Schools Campaign: <http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/programs/gcs>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov>

U.S. Green Building Council, LEED Green Building Rating System: <http://www.usgbc.org>