

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

Making a difference...every student, every school, every day!



Robert Laughton
Director

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

OEHS makes sure our school and office sites are free from hazards so that every student can learn and every staff member can work in a safe physical environment. From testing and addressing chemical pollutants, to making sure walkways are clear from obstructions, each year OEHS addresses over 2,000 safety concerns.

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Office of Environmental Health and Safety provides support to schools and offices to assure safety and health issues are appropriately addressed in a professional manner. This support ensures students and staff are afforded a safe learning and working environment while complying with regulatory requirements. OEHS staff conducts Safe School Inspections to evaluate the extent to which school conditions and operating practices are in compliance with regulatory standards and District policies. A Corrective Action Notice is provided to each school indicating actions necessary to achieve compliance. These efforts ensure that conditions that could potentially endanger students and staff are appropriately mitigated.

Safety and Industrial Hygiene

OEHS provides support to schools and offices to assure safety and health issues are appropriately addressed in a professional manner. This support ensures students and staff are afforded a safe learning and working environment while complying with regulatory requirements. OEHS staff conducts Safe School Inspections to evaluate the extent to which school conditions and operating practices are in compliance with regulatory standards and District policies. A Corrective Action Notice is provided to each school indicating actions necessary to achieve compliance. These efforts ensure that conditions that could potentially endanger students and staff are appropriately mitigated. OEHS manages the Lead in Drinking Water program to ensure all potable water sources meet safe levels established by the EPA. This includes establishing the District's policies and procedures, monitoring site compliance during periodic inspections and measuring compliance rates. Regular compliance reports are issued to executive staff based on the on-line Administrator Certification System. During the natural gas leak at Aliso Canyon, OEHS sampled and tested the air quality at 20 schools within a 5-mile radius to ensure they were safe for occupancy, and assisted the Los Angeles County Health Department with additional sampling and monitoring to assess conditions in the greater community.

Environmental Programs

OEHS oversees environmental sampling and monitoring at all schools. As part of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) investigation of Exide Technologies' former lead-acid battery recycling facility in the City of Vernon, OEHS collaborated with DTSC on their soil sampling at 22 District schools within a 1.7-mile radius as part of its off-site investigation of potential lead contamination. OEHS staff also provides oversight and support for development and maintenance of site environmental surveillance systems (i.e., methane systems), hazardous/universal waste management, solid waste management, recycling programs, storm water compliance, and environmental auditing.

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Office of Environmental Health & Safety Facts:

- Responds to 1,000 emergency calls annually related to gas leaks, sewage, hazardous spills, water intrusion, fires, air quality, etc.
- Conducts 300 investigations annually related to regulatory agency inquiries, indoor air quality, mold, general safety, etc.
- Trains 1600 M&O employees annually on regulatory requirements such as Permit by Rule, Asbestos Awareness, Injury and Illness Prevention etc.
- Trains 700 Plant Managers on Hazardous Waste Storage & Handling and other safety topics annually.
- Coordinates asbestos medical screenings and audiometric tests annually and blood lead tests semi-annually for 2,300 employees.
- The OEHS Director serves as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) officer and ensures compliance with required CEQA provisions for new school sites and modernization projects.
- Completed 206 Hazardous Waste Business Plans and completed 571 hazardous waste pick-up requests in Fiscal Year 2015-16.
- Completed 174 Chemical Evaluations to ensure the safety of products used at the schools in Fiscal Year 2015-16.
- Performed 1,723 construction inspections for PEX and ITD LAN modernizations in Fiscal Year 2015-16.
- Presented at 140 Job Start meetings to ensure contractor compliance with District safety standards in Fiscal Year 2015-16.
- Conducted 822 Safe School Inspections to mitigate conditions that could potentially endanger students and staff.

The Office of Educational Services (OES) consists of six Divisions: Beyond the Bell, Food Services, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Procurement Services, Student Health and Human Services, and Transportation Services.

Our Mission

To serve the academic, social-emotional, and physical needs of every student, so that teachers can teach and students can learn.

Our Vision

To be the leader in delivering a safe, healthy, and nurturing learning environment where all students graduate ready for success.

Find out more at
<http://achieve.lausd.net/oes>

