

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

The Rapid City School District is committed to providing a safe, comfortable and productive environment for our students and staff. Good indoor air quality contributes to a favorable learning environment and a sense of comfort, health, and well being for all school occupants. These assist the school district in its core mission of educating children.

Rapid City School District recognizes the need to maintain optimal management of the school environment, especially when it comes to indoor air quality. Indoor air quality can impact the health of staff and students. IAQ problems are most likely to affect those with pre-existing conditions. Some of IAQ problems include, but are not limited to the following:

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTANTS

Chemical odors can be generated by masking agents, which only hide the odor and do not address the source of the odor.

To provide a consistent safe environment for students and staff that have a sensitivity/allergy to products such as electric air fresheners, i.e. Glade Plug-ins, scented candles, live pine Christmas trees and/or decorations, will not be allowed in any school buildings.

If the source of the odor is due to pollutant generating activities, safety protocol and specialized cleaning procedures should be combined with enhanced filtration and ventilation practices.

CLUTTER

The degree of clutter can affect the ability of the custodial staff to maintain a clean environment for the occupants of the room.

Clutter will be minimized on a regular basis and removed regularly.

Dusting, Vacuuming, and Trash Removal

Daily trash removal will minimize fungal, bacterial, and odor concerns.

Routine vacuuming and dusting reduces or minimizes the accumulation of dust, skin cells, dust mites and biological contaminants in the classrooms.

PESTS

Strategies for managing and/or controlling pest populations must be influenced by the pest species and the risk posed to the occupants.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet important management goals, the least hazardous material adequate to control the pest should be chosen and label directions shall be followed.

CARPET

Carpet acts as a reservoir/amplification site for dust, skin cells, dust mites and biological contaminants.

When carpets are vacuumed the vacuum cleaner can act as a mechanical distribution source.

Regular and thorough vacuuming should be done with High Efficiency filtered vacuums. Carpets will be kept free of spills and moisture accumulation.

UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE/STUFFED ANIMALS

Upholstered furniture and stuffed animals act as a reservoir/amplification for dust, skin cells, dust mites and biological contaminants.

All upholstered furniture must be certified, fire-rated, and located under a sprinkler system.

If these items are to be in the classroom, the items need to be kept clean. A thorough cleaning procedure must be established and maintained by the owner.

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Animals kept in the classrooms should have instructional value. The teacher shall provide details regarding how the animal is included in their curriculum to the school administrator. School personnel should weigh the benefits of meeting educational objectives against the risks of exposing students and staff to animal allergens. Approval of the school administrator is required prior to allowing the animal into the classroom.

Before any animal is allowed to be kept in a classroom the parents of students in that classroom shall be notified by the teacher in writing as to the intent to keep an animal in the classroom. The teacher is responsible for care of the animal when school is and not in session. If any student has health related issues with the animal, the animal should not be allowed in the classroom.

Antibacterial soap shall be provided for use after the handling of all animals. Students must be required to wash their hands after any and all handling of animals/reptiles/birds.

All animals shall be maintained in a sanitary environment to prevent health hazards or nuisance conditions. Cages need to be located away from ventilation systems and off of carpeting and cleaned regularly.

All animals must remain in their enclosures at all times unless the enclosure is being cleaned or being used for instructional purposes. At no time should an animal be allowed to roam freely throughout the classroom.

No psittacine, specifically parakeets, parrots and lovebirds birds shall be allowed in any classroom setting. These birds are associated with the illness Psittacosis.

Personal pets should not be brought to schools during school hours. Prior approval of school administration must be obtained for personal pets at school. The teacher/owner of the pet is responsible for the clean up or removal of any animal waste on any school property including playgrounds, athletic fields or parks.

PLANTS

Plants kept in classrooms should have instructional value. The teacher shall provide details regarding how the plant is included in their curriculum to the school administrator. School personnel should weigh the benefits of meeting educational objectives against the risks of exposing students and staff to plant allergens. Approval of the school administrator is required prior to allowing the plant into the classroom.

Live plants represent a source for biological/fungal contamination from the wetted soil. Plants are to be maintained. Proper cleaning and ventilation is required. If a student has health related issues to a plant, the plant will not be allowed in the classroom.

AQUARIUMS

Aquariums kept in classrooms should have instructional value. The teacher shall provide details regarding how the aquarium is included in their curriculum to the school administrator. Approval of the school administrator is required prior to allowing the aquarium into the classroom.

Regular inspection of aquariums should be scheduled to assure that no fungal contaminations or leaks are present.

If the aquariums cannot be removed, a thorough cleaning procedure must be established and maintained by the owner.

FOOD ITEMS

The storage or consumption of food items in the classroom leads to leads to bacterial, pest control, and other problems.

If food must be stored in a classroom, it must be in a covered, air tight, heavy-duty, plastic container.

Food storage and consumption should be limited to areas designated for these purposes.

REFRIGERATORS, MICROWAVES AND COFFEE MAKERS

Food preparation devices and refrigerators in classrooms can lead to problems. The thermal output from these items must not be allowed to affect the thermostat or sensor that controls the room temperature. Local fire codes must be enforced and followed.

Food preparation devices and refrigerators should be limited to designated areas and approved by the school administrator. Food items in the classroom lead to bacterial and pest control concerns.

Administrators must weigh the benefits of food preparation devices and refrigerators to the overall health and cleanliness of the building.

LATEX

Latex allergy is sensitivity to latex materials that can result in local or anaphylactic reaction. Repeated exposure to latex can cause sensitization.

To provide a consistent, safe environment for students and staff that have a latex sensitivity, latex balloons will not be allowed in any school buildings.

UNIT VENTILATOR SYSTEMS

Unit Ventilators: All unit ventilators should be on while students are in the building. If a Unit Ventilator is not operating, carbon dioxide levels elevate and cause health concerns.

Classroom Set Up: General classroom conditions may have a significant effect on how well a Unit Ventilator works. In order for the Unit Ventilator to work most efficiently and effectively it must be free of items that impair the air-flow coming from the unit. No items shall be stored on top of the Unit Ventilators.

Items in front of the Unit Ventilator negatively affect the performance of the unit ventilator. Items such as bookcases, filing cabinets or any other item that may impede the air-flow into the classroom should not be placed in front of the Unit Ventilators. Filing cabinets or bookcases should not be placed in front of (within 10 feet) of any Unit Ventilator.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Indoor air quality concerns are communicated by utilizing the IAQ request form that is initiated through the building administrator.

Assessment and evaluation of the concern will be conducted as described on the Indoor Air Quality Request Form (District Code: EBBC-E1).

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