

TPS Policy for a Healthy School Environment 2006-2007

- The Thompson Public School System shall develop, implement and monitor a healthy learning environment plan designed to optimize conditions for learning and minimize human exposure to hazardous chemicals, allergens, irritants and pollutants which will address and include the following elements:
- An assessment of environmental factors that can enhance or detract from student learning and comfort, including lighting, ventilation, temperature, noise, availability of drinking water quality and sanitation facilities;
- An assessment of environmental factors that are potentially harmful to human health, including tobacco smoke, pests, mold, pollen, dust mites, animal dander, chalk dust, cleaning agents, scented and unscented personal care products, volatile organic chemicals, (VOCs), laboratory chemicals, un-vented fumes, vehicle exhaust, asbestos, lead and other substances in drinking water, arsenic treated lumber, radon and excessive exposure to the sun;
- A plan for the physically isolated storage, safe usage and proper disposal of cleaning agents and other hazardous chemicals that cannot be eliminated from school buildings and grounds;
- Procedures to ensure the schools' ongoing compliance with the maintenance schedules for the clean and efficient operation of heating, ventilation and plumbing systems;
- Procedure for minimizing human exposure to the exhaust of school buses and other vehicles;
- Diesel exhaust: To minimize potentially harmful emissions, drivers shall turn off diesel school bus engines as soon as they arrive at a loading or unloading area and not restart until ready to depart. Idling for engine warm-up will be as brief as possible. Diesel school buses must be parked and loaded at a sufficient distance from school buildings to prevent diesel fumes from being drawn into school ventilation systems. The TPS shall endeavor to retrofit diesel engines with exhaust reduction equipment or purchase low emission vehicles to the greatest feasible extent;
- Mechanisms for resolving cases of hazardous chemical exposure and air and water quality problems as they occur;
- Live animals shall not be kept inside TPS buildings because they are a significant asthma trigger; with the exception of assistive animals such as seeing eye dogs; and short-term curriculum-related animals;
- No plants shall be kept inside TPS buildings because they are a significant asthma trigger; with the exception of short-term curriculum-related plants;
- Specific action steps, strategies, and long term goals to address identified issue of concern.