

**CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools**  
**A nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting policies, practices and resources that**  
**protect school occupants from environmental health hazards**  
[www.pollutionfreeschools.org](http://www.pollutionfreeschools.org)

**SUMMARY OF CT LAWS ON**  
**SCHOOL INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**The CT General Statutes contain laws dealing with the following school indoor environmental quality (IEQ) issues: School Bus Emissions, Pesticide Usage, Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), High Performance School Buildings and Green Cleaning in STATE-OWNED Schools. This document summarizes CT School IEQ Laws as of August 2008.**

**CT SCHOOL BUS EMISSIONS LAW SUMMARY**

**(CT General Statutes Section Nos. 14-164 n and o, 14-277, 22a-21k and 22a-21j)**

- Prohibits school bus drivers from idling bus engines for more than three consecutive minutes when the bus is stopped except where:
  - the bus is stopped because of traffic conditions or mechanical problems over which the driver has no control;
  - it is necessary to operate heating, cooling, or auxiliary equipment needed for the proper operation of the bus, such as the operation of safety equipment;
  - the outside temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit;
  - it is necessary to maintain a safe temperature for special needs students;
  - the bus is being repaired; or
  - the driver is picking up or discharging passengers on a public highway or public road.
  
- Establishes fines for noncompliance: A first violation is an infraction, for which the total amount due is \$ 102, if paid by mail. Subsequent offenses are punishable by fines of between \$ 100 and \$ 500. Fines are enforceable by local police.
  
- Requires certain full-sized buses to be retrofitted with emissions-reducing equipment by September 1, 2010.
  
- Requires, as an alternative, that a bus must meet US EPA 2007 emissions standards or use compressed natural gas or another alternative fuel certified by either the EPA or the California Air Resources Board in order to reduce soot emissions by at least 85% compared to ultra low sulfur diesel fuel.
  
- Establishes CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grants to cover the retrofitting costs
  
- Requires CT DEP to develop an outreach plan to educate municipalities, school boards and bus companies about the law and help them with the retrofits.

## CT SCHOOL PESTICIDE LAW SUMMARY

(CT General Statutes Section Nos. 10-231, 19a-79a, 22a-59a, 22a-61b, 22a-63 and 22a-66l)

- Requires that only licensed applicators can apply pesticides within any building or on the grounds of a public school, other than a regional vocational agriculture center, except in emergencies
- Bans application of pesticides during school hours or planned events, except in emergencies.
- Bans restricted pesticides, even in emergencies.
- Bars children from reentering an area where pesticide was used until it is safe according to the specifications on the pesticide label
- Requires school boards to provide parents, guardians and staff with a written statement at the beginning of the school year of the board's policy on pesticide application on school property and a description of any pesticide applications made at the school during the previous school year. (During the year for transfer students)
- Provides a registry at the school for parents, guardians and staff to sign up on who want to be notified before pesticides are sprayed
- Requires schools to maintain pesticide application records on site for five years
- Bans the use of lawn-care pesticides on the grounds of public and private schools with grades K-8, except in emergencies
- Exempts athletic fields of schools with grades K-8 until July 1, 2009. Until then, these fields must be maintained by using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods. At the end of the two year period these athletic fields must become organic as well.
- Makes the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) responsible for administering and enforcing school pesticide applications

## CT INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS LAW SUMMARY

(CT General Statutes Section Nos. 10-220 (a) and (d), 10-282 (19), 10-283 (b), 10-286 (a) (9) and (c) (2), 10-291, 10-231 e and f)

### For all schools:

- Requires Boards of Education to:
  1. Ensure operation and maintenance of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in accordance with prevailing standards
  2. Ensure operation of HVAC systems continuously while students and school staff occupy school facilities, with limited exceptions
  3. Adopt and implement an IAQ program that provides for ongoing maintenance and facility reviews necessary for the maintenance and improvement of the IAQ of its facilities
  4. Report every two years to the State Commissioner of Education on the condition of its facilities and on actions taken to implement its IAQ program
  5. Keep HVAC maintenance records for at least 5 years.
- Allows for the establishment of an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Committee for each school to address issues affecting the health of school occupants. A school safety committee established pursuant to section 10-220f of the general statutes cannot be prohibited from addressing IAQ issues that affect the health of occupants of school facilities.
- Creates a "certified school indoor air quality emergency" category for receiving state bonding money.

### For newer schools (constructed, extended, renovated or replaced after January 1, 2003):

- Requires comprehensive inspections and evaluations by the local board of education, prior to January 1, 2008 and every five years thereafter, to detect environmental problems. To be reviewed are HVAC and plumbing systems, radon levels, potential for exposure to microbial contaminants and chemical compounds, degree of pest infestation and pesticide usage, degree of moisture incursion, building cleanliness, building structural elements, use of space, presence of and plans for removal of hazardous substances and provision of IAQ maintenance training for staff.
- Requires that these inspection reports be made public at a Board of Education meeting.

### For schools being constructed, extended or replaced:

- Requires a Phase I environmental site assessment.
- Requires the State Department of Education to deny approval of a school building project if:
  1. The site is in an area of moderate or high radon potential, unless construction techniques mitigate radon levels.
  2. New or replacement roofs do not have the required pitch and guarantees on materials and workmanship or are not built following correct construction practices.
  3. SMACNA or similar IAQ guidelines for construction during occupancy are not followed.
  4. The building maintenance staff is not trained in plant operation, including HVAC systems and IAQ issues.
- Increases the maximum square footage per pupil limit for grant purposes by up to 1% to accommodate the HVAC system.

## **CT HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOL LAW SUMMARY**

### **(CT General Statutes Section Nos. 10-285a, 16a-38k and 29-256a)**

- Applies to both state-owned buildings, including state schools, and public school facilities that satisfy the following criteria:
  1. New construction of a state facility, including a state school, that is projected to cost \$5 million or more, and is approved and funded on or after January 1, 2008;
  2. State facility renovation, including that of a state school, that is projected to cost \$2 million or more, and is approved and funded on or after January 1, 2008;
  3. New construction of a public school facility that is projected to cost \$5 million or more, and of which \$2 million or more is state funded and authorized by the CT General Assembly pursuant to Chapter 173 on or after January 1, 2009;
  4. Renovation of a public school facility costing \$2 million or more of which \$2 million or more is state funded and authorized by the CT General Assembly pursuant to Chapter 173 on or after January 1, 2009.
  
- Requires schools to be built to meet specified energy and environmental standards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Standard or its equivalent)
  
- Requires schools to exceed the current building code energy efficiency standards by at least 20%
  
- Allows for a waiver of these requirements if the cost of compliance outweighs the benefits
  
- Requires the state building inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to amend the State Building Code to require (1) buildings costing \$5 million or more built after January 1, 2009 and (2) renovations costing \$2 million or more starting January 1, 2010 to meet the LEED Silver Standard or its equivalent

## **CT GREEN CLEANING LAW FOR STATE-OWNED SCHOOLS SUMMARY**

### **(CT General Statutes Section No. 4b-15a)**

- Bans the use of cleaning products that do not meet certain guidelines or environmental standards in state-owned buildings, including state schools. (Green Seal Certified products only)
- Requires cleaning products to minimize potential harmful impact on human health and the environment to the maximum extent possible
- Excludes disinfectants, disinfecting cleaners, sanitizers and other antimicrobial products regulated by federal law

## **GREEN CLEANING IN CT PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUESTED AND ENCOURAGED**

### **(CT Governor M. Jodi Rell's Executive Order #14 (April 17, 2006))**

Requests and encourages municipalities and school districts to review their purchasing and use of cleaning and/or sanitizing products and urges them to procure and use products having properties that minimize potential harmful impacts to human health and the environment