

School Environmental Health and Safety

Classroom Checklist

Guidelines for Safe and Healthy Classrooms*

Teachers have an important role in ensuring that the classroom environment supports the health and safety of students. Environmental health and safety in schools is vital to the educational success and overall well-being of students. Poor conditions can interfere with learning and cause preventable absences. This checklist is provided as a guide to help ensure classrooms meet the guidelines in the Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington** and the Environmental Standards for Primary and Secondary Schools in Washington Administrative Code 246-366***.



Cleaning Supplies and Chemical Safety

- School district policy for cleaners and chemicals reviewed
- Safety Data Sheets available for all chemicals and cleaning supplies
- All containers properly labeled with contents
- Chemicals and cleaners are only used by trained staff and stored out of reach or in locked cabinets
- Have students use soap and water to help clean up



Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation

- Check that all vents are open and not blocked
- Open windows for fresh air as needed
- Do not use air fresheners or essential oils
- No air filter units with ozone or ionizers (respiratory irritant)
- Plants not overwatered, prevent moldy soil and stagnant water
- Use art supplies, markers and board cleaners that are water based and low or no VOC
- Spray paint or spray adhesives used outside or in properly vented hoods



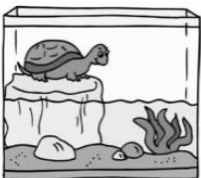
General Classroom Health and Safety

- Ensure tall bookshelves are secured to the wall
- Store food in sealed containers to prevent pests
- Keep room uncluttered and dusted
- Upholstered furniture replaced with leather or vinyl for easy clean up
- Electrical outlets within 6 feet of sinks are GFCI protected



Animals in the Classroom

- Review district policy on animals in the classroom
- Consider allergies, injuries and potential illnesses from animals and their habitats
- Provide written notification to parents or caregivers when animals visit the classroom
- Animals handled under staff supervision followed by hand washing
- Cages and tanks regularly cleaned away from the classroom
- "Wash Hands" sign near the animal's habitat
- Hand washing sink provided with soap, paper towels and warm water



*[WA State Department of Health – School Health and Safety](#) (handouts and additional information).

**[Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington](#) (State Department of Health and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction).

***[Washington Administrative Code 246-366](#) Primary and Secondary Schools Environmental Standards.