

## School Environmental Health and Safety Rule Newsletter

**Issue #1—March 24, 2008**



The State Board of Health has been working with the Department of Health (DOH) and stakeholders since 2004 to modernize its school environmental health and safety rule.

### Rule Revision Workshops

The Washington State Board of Health has organized a series of workshops to review proposed language for technical clarity. The goal is to eliminate confusion from unclear language and to clearly articulate areas of disagreement.

Key participants will include local environmental health managers and school facilities managers—the people who will have to interpret and implement the rule. Also represented will be school administrators, local public health administrators, parents, teachers, school architects and state agencies. At the urging of legislators, the Board asked several organizations (see list to right) to nominate participants.

DOH and Board staff have been working on revised language intended to resolve many concerns heard from stakeholders. We anticipate distributing it to participants before the first workshop. DOH and the Board will use input from the workshops to finalize a draft proposal. Workshop participants will have a chance to comment on an analysis describing costs and benefits associated with the proposal in late May. The Board will be briefed June 11 and a rule hearing is tentatively scheduled for August 13.

### Workshop Locations & Dates

#### Federal Way Public Schools, Board Room

31405 18th Ave South, Federal Way

- April 4
- April 15
- April 21
- April 28

#### Highline Community College

2400 S. 240th St, Des Moines

- May 20

Meetings are scheduled for 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

*These meetings are open to the public for observation.  
Participation in the discussions will be limited to invitees.*

### The workgroup will include representatives from the following organizations:

- International Facilities Maintenance Association (IFMA)
- Local health jurisdictions (LHJs) (east and west)
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Puget Sound School Coalition (PSSC)
- Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA)
- Washington Association of School Business Officials (east and west) (WASBO)
- Washington Education Association (WEA)
- Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS)
- Washington Association of Maintenance and Operations Administrators (WAMOA)
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO)
- Washington State Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA)
- Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- State Board of Health (SBOH)

OSPI has contracted for an architect to participate in the workshops and a facilitator.

### Proposed Timeline—Final Phase

The proposed timeline for this final phase is available online at:

<http://www.sboh.wa.gov/rules/schooleh/index.htm>