

STUDENT SAFETY IN SPECIAL AREAS

Background

One of the primary responsibilities of a teacher or supervisor is to ensure the safety of students, particularly in special activity areas such as laboratories, workshops and gymnasiums. Teachers are required, therefore, at the beginning of each school year or course to instruct all students with regard to safe conduct and the proper and safe operation of equipment. They are further required to periodically review such procedures.

Procedures

1. Teachers shall show in their planning the procedures that have been developed for an ongoing, preventative safety program in courses or areas of the school where accidents are likely to occur.
2. Safeguards shall be provided in special activity areas through:
 - 2.1 Careful housekeeping;
 - 2.2 Approved installation and maintenance of equipment;
 - 2.3 Posting prominently federal, provincial and local safety regulations;
 - 2.4 Displaying, where appropriate, information regarding possible hazards, safeguards, precautions and treatments.
 - 2.5 Science Safety
 - 2.5.1 Prior to having students conduct experiments, teachers shall make students aware of proper procedures that are to be followed and the potential hazards that may be present.
 - 2.5.2 Students shall follow proper laboratory procedures as instructed and also conduct themselves in such a manner so that their safety and that of classmates is not jeopardized.
 - 2.5.3 To minimize the risk of blood-borne diseases:
 - 2.5.3.1 No blood sampling experiments are to be performed.
 - 2.5.3.2 No experiments or demonstrations using human fluids, human tissues or locally-obtained blood products are to be performed.
 - 2.5.4 The use of preserved animal samples and/or tissues for demonstration or dissection purposes is preferred however the use of fresh animal tissue obtained from a government inspected slaughtering facility is also permissible. The use of fresh animal tissue that is not government inspected is not permissible.

3. No teacher or supervisor shall leave a special activity area for any reason without first ensuring that all power equipment is shut off, and all experiments are stopped until such time as the person returns.
4. Substitute teachers shall not undertake, or be required to undertake any teaching assignment involving the use of specialized equipment for which they are not adequately trained. Principals are to verify a substitute's training and/or experience before requesting that teacher engage in such activities.
5. No piece of equipment shall be used that does not conform to existing safety standards in effect at the time.
6. The teacher or supervisor shall report immediately, in writing to the Principal, any defects in buildings or equipment which might prove injurious to the health and safety of employees, students or other persons.
7. On receipt of a report regarding hazardous equipment or conditions, the Principal shall refer the matter immediately to the Safety and Wellness Coordinator in writing. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer for information.
8. An annual review shall be undertaken by science teachers of all chemicals in use in school programs to determine their continued safety.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016/NOV 2019/JAN 2023

Reference: Section 11, 31, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
Emergency Medical Aid Act
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Health Information Act
Occupational Health and Safety Act
Personal Information Protection Act
Public Health Act
Communicable Disease Regulation 238/1985
Occupational Health and Safety Code
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations