

Facilities Inspection

AR 3517(a)

Business and Noninstructional Operations

The Superintendent or designee shall inspect school facilities to ensure that they are maintained in good repair. At a minimum, he/she shall assess those facility conditions specified on the facilities inspection tool developed by the Office of Public School Construction, including, but not limited to, the following: (Education Code 17002, 35292.5)

1. Gas Leaks: Gas systems and pipes appear and smell safe, functional, and free of leaks.
2. Mechanical Systems: Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, as applicable, are functional and unobstructed; appear to supply an adequate amount of air to all classrooms, work spaces, and facilities; and maintain interior temperatures within normally acceptable ranges.
3. Windows and Doors: Windows and doors are intact, functional, and open, close, and lock as designed, unless there is a valid reason they should not function as designed.
4. Fences and Gates: Fences and gates are intact, functional, and free of holes and other conditions that could present a safety hazard to students, staff, or others. Locks and other security hardware function as designed.
5. Interior Surfaces (walls, floors, ceilings): Interior surfaces are free of safety hazards from tears, holes, missing floor and ceiling tiles, torn carpet, water damage, or other cause. Ceiling tiles are intact. Surfaces display no evidence of mold or mildew.
6. Hazardous Materials: Hazardous and flammable materials are stored properly. No evidence of peeling, chipping, or cracking paint is apparent. No indicators of mold, mildew, or asbestos exposure are evident. There does not appear to be evidence of hazardous materials that may pose a threat to the health and safety of students or staff.

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)

7. Structures: Posts, beams, supports for portable classrooms and ramps, and other structures appear intact, secure, and functional as designed. Ceilings and floors are not sloping or sagging beyond their intended design. There is no visible evidence of severe cracks, dry rot, mold, or damage that undermines structural components.
8. Fire Safety and Emergency Equipment: Fire sprinklers, fire extinguishers, emergency alarm systems, and all emergency equipment and systems appear to be functioning properly. Fire alarm pull stations are clearly visible. Fire extinguishers are current and placed in all required areas, including every classroom and assembly area. Emergency exits are clearly marked and unobstructed.

9. Electrical Systems: Electrical systems, components, and equipment, including switches, junction boxes, panels, wiring, outlets, and light fixtures, are securely enclosed, properly covered and guarded from student access, and appear to be working properly.

10. Lighting: Interior and exterior lighting appears to be adequate and working properly. Lights do not flicker, dim, or malfunction, and there is no unusual hum or noise from light fixtures.

11. Pest/Vermin Infestation: No visible or odorous indicators of pest or vermin infestation are evident.

12. Drinking Fountains: Interior and exterior drinking fountains are functional, accessible, and free of leaks. Drinking water pressure is adequate. Fountain water is clear and without unusual taste or odor, and moss, mold, or excessive staining is not evident.

13. Restrooms: Restrooms are fully operational, maintained and cleaned regularly, and stocked at all times with supplies (including toilet paper, soap, and paper towels or functional hand dryers) in accordance with Education Code 35292.5. The school keeps all restrooms open during school hours when students are not in classes and keeps a sufficient number of restrooms open during school hours when students are in classes, except when necessary to temporarily close a restroom for student safety or to repair the facility.

In addition, in a school serving any of grades 6-12 in which 40 percent or more of the students in the school or school attendance area are from low-income families, at least 50 percent of the school's restrooms are stocked with feminine hygiene products, for which students are not charged. (Education Code 35292.6; 20 USC 6314)

14. Sewers: The sanitary sewer system controls odors as designed, displays no signs of stoppage, backup, or flooding in school facilities or on school grounds, and appears to be functioning properly.

15. Roofs: Roofs, gutters, roof drains, and downspouts appear to be functioning properly and are free of visible damage and evidence of disrepair when observed from the ground from inside and outside the building.

16. Drainage: School grounds do not exhibit signs of drainage problems, such as visible evidence of flooded areas, eroded soil, water damage to asphalt playgrounds or parking areas, or clogged storm drain inlets.

17. Playground/School Grounds: Playground equipment (exterior fixtures, seating, tables, and equipment), school grounds, fields, walkways, and parking lot surfaces are functional and free of significant cracks, trip hazards, holes, deterioration that affects functionality or safety, and other health and safety hazards.

18. Overall Cleanliness: School grounds, buildings, common areas, and individual rooms appear to have been cleaned regularly and are free of accumulated refuse and unabated graffiti. Restrooms, drinking fountains, and food preparation or serving areas appear to have been cleaned each day that school is in session.

In addition, to ensure the health and safety of students, the Superintendent or designee shall provide for the testing of drinking water on campus and of the soil and painted surfaces of school facilities for the presence of lead and/or other harmful substances, in accordance with state and federal standards.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any necessary repairs or removal of hazards identified during the inspection are made in a timely and expeditious manner.

An assessment of the safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of school facilities, including any needed maintenance to ensure good repair as defined in Education Code 17002, shall be reported on the school accountability report card. (Education Code 33126)

(cf. 0510 - School Accountability Report Card)

Any complaint alleging a school facility condition that poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of students or staff, or alleging that a school restroom is not clean, maintained, or kept open, shall be addressed in accordance with AR 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures.

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with regular reports regarding the district's facility inspection program and updates of any visits to district schools by the County Superintendent of Schools.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1240 County superintendent of schools, duties

17002 Definitions

17070.10-17077.10 Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998

17565-17591 Property maintenance and control

17592.72 Urgent or emergency repairs, School Facility Emergency Repair Account

33126 School accountability report card

35186 Williams uniform complaint procedure

35292.5-35292.6 School maintenance

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

116277 Lead testing in drinking water

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2
1859.300-1859.330 Emergency Repair Program
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
6314 Title I schoolwide program
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
300f-300j-27 Safe Drinking Water Act

Management Resources:

COALITION OF ADEQUATE SCHOOL HOUSING PUBLICATIONS
Facility Inspection Tool Guidebook, February 2008
STATE ALLOCATION BOARD, OFFICE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
PUBLICATIONS
Facility Inspection Tool: School Facility Conditions Evaluation

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California County Superintendents Educational Services Association: <http://www.csesa.org>
California Department of Education, Williams Case: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/ce/wc/index.asp>
Coalition of Adequate School Housing: <http://www.cashnet.org>
State Allocation Board, Office of Public School Construction: <http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov>
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov>