



Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

Background

Like school districts across the country, Portland Public Schools has buildings that are more than 100 years old and in serious need of modernization and infrastructure upgrades to improve both academic opportunities and address environmental health and safety issues.

There are concurrent efforts at PPS to address both immediate issues around environmental health and safety as well as a long-term system overhaul to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. The Board has approved \$5 million to address both immediate issues and begin work to assess and develop plans for long-term system wide assessments and remediation.

Addressing Immediate Needs

Drinking Water

- All drinking fountains have been turned off or covered to prevent access.
- Water dispensers will be supplied with 5 gallon water jugs for drinking in all buildings.
- Signage will also be placed on access doors to cold water sources, such as bathrooms, labs, classrooms with sinks indicating not to drink from those fixtures.
- Nutrition Services will serve pre-washed food until a plan is in place for kitchen fixture use.

Lead Paint

- Mitigation projects at approximately 40 schools will be completed by the start of school.
- Focus has been on K-2 populations.
- Projects prioritized by risk assessment guidelines.
- Addressing as much lead paint remediation before school starts as possible. Lead paint remains at most Portland schools and will be actively monitored.
- A comprehensive lead management plan for the district is being developed and will be shared once it is complete.

Radon

- District wide plan for radon testing to be presented to and approved by the Oregon Health Authority this fall.
- In accordance with the plan, testing and monitoring will continue this fall when the heating season begins.
- Results of testing and associated remediation actions will be shared school and district wide.

Long-term Comprehensive Remediation

The PPS Director of Environmental Health and Safety is currently analyzing risks present at our schools and is preparing an analysis of best practices. From this analysis will come recommendations and an implementation plan to strengthen current practices.

The Chief of School Modernization is also leading an effort to assess current health and safety infrastructure needs. The results of these studies will help guide the School Board as they determine what to include in the upcoming May 2017 bond request.