Health Criteria and Guidelines for School Site Assessment
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

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Health and Safety Code, Section 901(g) directed OEHHA to identify those chemical contaminants commonly found at school sites and of greatest concern based on child-specific exposures and physiological sensitivities. Section 901(g) also requires OEHHA to publish health guidance values for five of the identified contaminants by December 31, 2002, and annually thereafter. OEHHA released a draft report summarizing efforts to identify these contaminants. The draft report, containing the compilation of chemical contaminants that could be present at some school sites, will be available for viewing from the OEHHA web site.

OEHHA is currently selecting the first five contaminants to be evaluated. In the review process, OEHHA will determine if it is feasible to develop child-specific health criteria for these contaminants for use in assessing potential health risks at school sites. Thus, chemicals identified in this OEHHA draft report do not possess any regulatory status. Any proposed guidance value will be subjected to internal and external reviews prior to its adoption.

Pursuant to Section 901(f) of the Health and Safety Code, OEHHA is also developing guidance for assessing exposure and risk from environmental chemicals in schools. The guidance is expected to include methods for evaluation of up to 16 direct and indirect exposure pathways. It will describe a method to estimate the migration of outdoor contaminants into the indoor environment and the resulting concentrations of contaminants in classrooms and other indoor areas. Default exposure parameters will be proposed for infants and children up through age 17, and for adults, including pregnant or lactating women. Using equations that describe the 16 pathways, hazard indices may be calculated for pre-schoolers, school-age children and adult employees. Cancer risks can be estimated on an age-specific basis or for age groupings such as 0-5, 5-10, or 0-18.