

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 03-18

July 24, 2003

Agenda Item No.: 03-6-4

WHEREAS, section 39619.6 of the Health and Safety Code required the Air Resources Board (ARB or the Board) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) to jointly conduct a study of the environmental health conditions in portable classrooms in California;

WHEREAS, a final report to the Legislature is also required, and must include a summary of the results of the study and recommendations to remedy and prevent unhealthful conditions found in portable classrooms;

WHEREAS, the Board and DHS consulted with the Office of Education, the Department of General Services, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment as required, and with other interested agencies and stakeholders through multiple meetings, workshops, a website, a listserve, and other means;

WHEREAS, the Board and DHS conducted the required study of California's portable classrooms, with assistance from Research Triangle Institute for the field portion of the study;

WHEREAS, nearly one-third, or more than 80,000, of the State's 268,000 kindergarten through 12th grade public school classrooms are portable classrooms, as defined in the California Education Code section 17070.15(k);

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the results of the study indicate a number of unhealthful environmental conditions in some of the portable and traditional classrooms in the State that require improvement;

WHEREAS, such unhealthful environmental conditions include elevated formaldehyde levels, inadequate ventilation, excessive noise, classroom temperatures and humidity levels outside of acceptable ranges, residues of multiple pesticides in floor dust samples, water stains and other indicators of moisture problems, inadequate lighting, and others;

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that such conditions are not suitable for children or conducive to learning, and may adversely affect the health of students and teachers and impede the educational process;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that remedies for these conditions are generally available;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board concurs with the findings and recommendations of the report to the Legislature, and supports submittal of the report to the Legislature as soon as feasible.

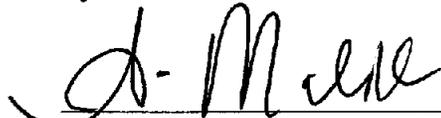
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board recommends that all new classrooms in California schools be substantially free of formaldehyde, and that formaldehyde sources in existing classrooms should be assessed and remediated as recommended in the ARB-DHS guideline for reducing formaldehyde levels in classrooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board emphasizes that all classrooms should be operated and maintained to meet State regulations, especially those of the Department of Industrial Relations (Cal-OSHA) related to ventilation, sanitation, and water intrusion, in order to assure that children and teachers are provided with a healthful learning environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board also encourages the routine incorporation of "Best Practices" developed for improved design and operation of schools by the California Collaborative for High Performance Schools, and those practices recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for operation and maintenance of healthy schools as outlined in their *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Kit*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Officer shall forward this resolution and the final report to the Legislature to the Department of Education, the Department of General Services, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the Department of Industrial Relations, in addition to submittal to the Governor's Office and the Legislature as required.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 03-18, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.



Alexa Malik, Clerk of the Board