



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Administrators

FROM: Tom Quinn
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Career Education

DATE: January 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Green Cleaning Guidelines

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Quinn".

A state law enacted in 2008 requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish “green” cleaning guidelines and specifications for schools. The guidelines are written to address environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products; paper product purchases; and equipment purchases for cleaning programs. In developing the voluntary guidelines, DESE was required to consult with the Department of Health and Senior Services and a panel of interested stakeholders, including industry representatives and non-governmental organizations.

The *Missouri Green Cleaning Guidelines and Specifications for Schools* have been completed; the document was approved last week by the State Board of Education. The new law allows public schools to voluntarily implement green cleaning programs and practices. However, we encourage you and your staff to review and use the *Green Cleaning Guidelines* to help ensure the health and safety of all those who use public school facilities and to minimize the environmental impact of cleaning products and processes.

The new guidelines recommend that schools use cleaning supplies that meet the standards of any of several eco-labeling organizations. More and more green cleaning products are coming into the marketplace, and school districts still have the flexibility to select products that meet their needs and will comply with the recommended standards.

Many school districts have already begun adopting the use of green cleaning and housekeeping practices. A comprehensive green cleaning program can help promote environmental stewardship by all (students and adults) and strengthen your district’s commitment to maintaining a healthy environment for all students, staff and patrons. We hope the state-guide will assist you and your staff in this transition.

The guidelines and specifications are provided on the DESE Web site and will be maintained by the School Administrative Services section. The document must be updated annually. The law requires that school districts disseminate this document to every school building. I hope you will promptly provide a copy of this document to key members of your administrative staff and to those responsible for building maintenance.

http://www.dese.mo.gov/divadm/govern/documents/GreenClean_2009.pdf