



# Environmental Health & Safety - August 2021



*New Day! New School Year and New Opportunities for Growth.*



## **Vision**

To be the promotional and guiding force in advancing a culture where safety, health, and environmental sustainability are core values adopted and practiced throughout all levels of the District.

## Mission

To maintain safe & healthy working and learning environments, facilitate increased awareness and efficient use of energy and other natural resources, and ensure regulatory compliance with Federal, State, and District protocol.



*1 - Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Department - "All Hands In"*

We are your resource for all things related to SBBC Environmental Health, (indoor air, asbestos, radon, recycling, utilities management, etc.), Safety (Ergonomics, Accident/Incidents investigation procedures, training in safety topics, etc.), AEDs maintenance and CPR training for non-school based Departments.

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## Welcome Back School Days - Safe Travels

Summer is over! Is that a “YEAH!!!!”, “Bummer!!!” or something in between? This bit of reality can elicit many different feelings depending on who is expressing the thought. But what is universally true, is that schools are now back in sessions for most K- 12 students or will be very soon.

Embed://<iframe src="https://giphy.com/embed/SGn5JVUaufbCLiGEiH" width="480" height="480" frameBorder="0" class="giphy-embed" allowFullScreen></iframe><p><a href="https://giphy.com/gifs/car-travel-city-SGn5JVUaufbCLiGEiH">via GIPHY</a></p>

Whether you have a school age child/children or not, you will be impacted; and safety of these students and yourself must be a priority as you go about your own business.

First and foremost,

**Traffic** – There will be a lot more vehicles on the road with you, including school buses and school zones to navigate. Allow more time for your commute. Rushing leads to - "flooring it", to get through the yellow lights, "&#!@!" words escaping from your lips, and worst yet, - "road rage"- either as the perpetrator or the recipient! Remember our children are listening and watching!

**Distractions**- Everyone has bought into our ability to multi-task. However, the science says our brains can only give 100% to one complex activity at a time, and this fact is most evident when we are using our cell phones- while driving or walking.

A report by the National Safety Council states, that in 1995, "... children ages 5 – 9 were more at risk than any age group under 19 for being struck by a vehicle while walking. Today, ...it is much more likely a teenager will be hit by a car...". Any guesses why? Yep, cell phones use.



2 - Distracted Walking<sup>1</sup> <https://www.scimex.org/newsfeed/smartphone-zombies-distracted-phone-users-rack-up-the-head-and-neck-injuries>

Drivers have a lot to pay attention to in school zones, too, and there is never an occasion that justifies using a phone while driving. I'm sure we all have done it, and unfortunately, some will probably continue, until something does happen to us, or someone we care about.

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<sup>1</sup><https://images.app.goo.gl/gYQ3UDUm79XH5Pf49>

One call or text can change everything<sup>2</sup>.



<https://sway.office.com/odBnriqk48mN9k3Y#content=lx6cHWPIyLxd5b>



<https://sway.office.com/odBnriqk48mN9k3Y#content=s8FD9Ub8fxrxHD>

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*Please share this information and short videos with your child/children and or students. And please, always remember to model the behaviors we want our youth to emulate.*

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*Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. - Viktor Frankl*

## INDOOR AIR QUALITY (IAQ) - AT THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

It's the start of a new school year! We are back to nearly full occupancy of our facilities, following 12-18 months of extended periods of absence, as well as multiple renovation projects.

Our team wants to remind all teachers, staff, building maintenance staff, and administration, of the procedures in place to address IAQ concerns and it starts with **YOU**. Each staff member has an important role to play in making sure that their space remains habitable by all occupants. Please follow

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.nsc.org/road-safety/safety-topics/distracted-driving>

the recommended Roles & Responsibilities identified below. If an unusual condition is observed, please report this to Administration/Head Facilities Serviceperson.

Facilities Service Persons	Teachers & Administrative Staff	School Principals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remove any excess build-up of dust on a regular basis.</li><li>Clean all surfaces, including flooring.</li><li>Clean and properly install HVAC filters.</li><li>Sanitize HVAC supply and return vents.</li><li>Replace stained ceiling tiles.</li><li>Ensure response protocol checklist for onsite resolution of IAQ issues has been completed prior to request for IAQ assessment by EH&amp;S.</li><li>Initiate work orders.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remove unauthorized chemicals, room deodorizers and air fresheners.</li><li>Keep exterior windows and door closed.</li><li>Ensure adjustments are made by qualified HVAC technicians.</li><li>Remove all live plants, animals, food waste, clutter and trash regularly.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Initiate response to IAQ requests with IAQ program response protocol.</li><li>Ensure Program Response Protocol Checklist for onsite resolution of IAQ issues has been completed prior to request for IAQ assessment by EH&amp;S.</li><li>Ensure recommendations for onsite staff responsibilities are completed.</li><li>Ensure recommendations for PPO's work orders are completed.</li><li>Notify requester and EH&amp;S when IAQ recommendations are completed.</li></ul>

Poor IAQ is caused by **Pollutants** (pollen, animal dander, insect debris, dust, dust mites, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), cigarette smoke, and mold spores) and **Pollutant Pathways** (movement of outside air into the indoor space via mechanical systems, open doors, or from one person's home to classroom/office).

Mold Spores are a common component of household and workplace dust. We cannot prevent the presence of mold spores because they are naturally found **EVERYWHERE**. We can prevent the growth of these mold spores (think of them like grass seeds). Mold spores need a food source and moisture to grow.

- Dust is a food source. Cleaning excess dust and debris from surfaces removes mold spores, mold food sources, and other allergens from the building. Surfaces may include walls, doors, desks, chairs, fabric items, etc. Cluttered areas lead to dust build-up.
- Correct water intrusion problems. Eliminate moisture sources, clean up spills and leaks, remove wet paper/cardboard materials, report or change out wet/stained ceiling tiles. Call in work orders to repair leaks.
- Maintain HVAC systems to keep humidity below 60-65%. Check for correct settings on manual Air Conditioners (portables), report high humidity/low temperature conditions, keep doors and windows closed. To maintain adequate air circulation throughout the building, do not close or block AC supply grills or returns.

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*Check out our Clutter-Free PIVOT memo from October 2020 for guidance on how to provide optimal conditions for proper cleaning, disinfecting and sanitization.*

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Additional information is available by emailing [EHS-help@browardschools.com](mailto:EHS-help@browardschools.com) or utilizing the resources on the EH&S Website - Indoor Air Quality Page

<sup>3</sup><https://www.browardschools.com/Page/39362>.<sup>4</sup> Past IAQ Assessments can be found at

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.browardschools.com/Page/39362>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.browardschools.com/Page/39362>

<https://ppofm01.browardschools.com/fmi/webd/IAQDatabase>)<sup>5</sup>. An anonymous Reporting Form is available as well, <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/40678>.<sup>6</sup> For any request to EH&S, please be sure to provide as much information as possible to guide us to the specific complaint.

Check out our Clutter-Free PIVOT memo from October 2020 for guidance on how to provide optimal conditions for proper cleaning, disinfecting and sanitization. Also, a May 2021 PIVOT memo (Summer Energy Savings and Indoor Air Quality Measures) discussed manual AC settings and operations for weekends and unoccupied times. For Occupancy, manual ACs should be set no lower than 72 degrees with the Fan set to AUTO to best maintain optimal relative humidity and temperature for occupant comfort.



## HB 7011 - Cold Water Tubs and AEDs

Last Year, the Florida House of Representatives passed a Bill titled HB 7011 (aka Zachary Martin bill). This bill is related to all K-12 student athletics and amends prior guidance on safety requirements that educational K-12 institutions must provide our athletics.

As a parent/administrator/coach and especially for the athletes themselves, it's great to know, that in the increasing hot temperatures of South Florida, when many of our outdoor activities occur, there will now be **cooling immersion tubs** and more **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)** on hand for each and every activity and practice in case there is a need. This factor, in combination with our coaches' annual refresher training to enhance their awareness of heat related illnesses will help prevent tragic sports related events, like those that have occurred previously in our state. Florida Teen Dies After Collapsing at Football Practice.<sup>7</sup>

So, what does EH&S have to do with Athletics and HB7011? Well, for starters, EH&S was instrumental in securing the funding and processing the orders for the additional 369 AED machines and the related supplies. But that was the relatively "easy" part, thanks to our Budget Analyst and leadership. The

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<sup>5</sup><https://ppofm01.browardschools.com/fmi/webd/IAQDatabase>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.browardschools.com/Page/40678>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/national/fort-myers-teen-dies-after-collapsing-at-football-practice>

"fun" began after **the 369 new AEDs** and supplies arrived and needed to be assembled and prepared for District inventory before being passed on to the Athletic Department for distribution, who were also working on the other side to compile the necessary data for our records.

It was "all hands in" for several days of lifting, relocating, unboxing, labeling, sorting, boxing and repackaging by schools. The pictures below do not truly convey the magnitude of the task! The significance however, is that just about every member of EH&S played an active role in bringing this project to completion.

***This is a "SHOUT OUT" to awesome EH&S Teamwork!***

***Thank you.***



**3 - OK, We Got This!**



**4 - Process in Action!**



5 - The End is in Sight!

*The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion.* ---PAULO COELHO

## Recycling - It's the Right Thing!



This summer, **Heads and Assistant Head Facilities Service Persons at BCPS**, as well as several of our **Board members** and classroom **teachers**, participated in an Environmental Health & Safety course titled **“Recycling- It’s the Right Thing!”**. The objective of the course was to:

- remind staff of why recycling is critical for the wellbeing of our planet and its inhabitants,
- report District savings from our current efforts, and
- challenge FSP staff to work in conjunction with their site Administrator/Directors/teachers to develop new and innovative strategies to increase our recycling and sustainability efforts.

A recent article in National Geographic, August 9, 2021, titled **“Reusable bottles are great- but here’s how kids can make a major eco-impact at school.”**, acknowledges that, **“... kids can have a huge impact by pushing their schools to be cleaner and greener.”** Elizabeth Soper, Senior Director of K-12 education at the National Wildlife Federation, stated, **“Students talking to students, forming a club, or gaining the support of a champion adult at school truly is the best way for them to move an issue forward.”**

The article acknowledges that many schools nation-wide are already engaged in activities to “save the planet”, and have aligned with organizations like **Green School Alliance** and National Wildlife Federation’s **Eco-Schools USA**. However, there is much more that we can do; and our children/students can have a big role in these efforts! The article continues with some alarming data on food waste from US schools (approx. 530,000 TONS annually!) and the correlating data on the level of toxic gases released as its by-product in our landfills. It highlights several ideas on activities/behaviors that work to meet this challenge. Sarah Ward, another member of National Wildlife Federation, suggests that, **“Kid-**

**led programs may be more effective because their peers may be more inclined to listen to their messages,” she says. “Plus, their solutions are often more creative than something an adult could come up with.”**

Make this school year, the one that takes BCPS to the next level of success in our recycling and sustainability efforts. Reach out to our own recycling guru, James Bowen, at [emshelpdesk@browardschools.com](mailto:emshelpdesk@browardschools.com), from the Energy Conservation & Utility Management side of EH&S to discover how we can support your innovative new efforts. We look forward to learning what you/your child(ren)/your students are doing to help our planet.

If you or your class would like to participate in this short Canvas course, please contact us at ([safetytraining@browardschools.com](mailto:safetytraining@browardschools.com)); there will be another section for this Canvas course created in LAB in September 2021.



# Playground Safety - Playgrounds - No Place for Tears!

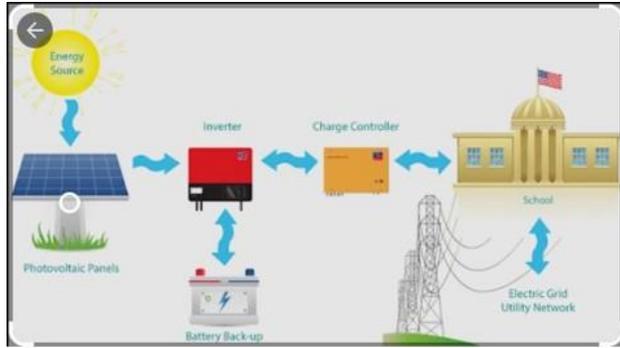
<p><b>Be Informed</b></p> <p>Playgrounds can &amp; should always be fun!</p> 	<p><b>Be Aware</b></p> <p>Sometimes though, <b>ONE SECOND LATER...</b> Fun could turn to injury</p> 	<p><b>Be the Solution</b></p> <p><b>SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY</b></p>
<p><b>X Basic Supervisor Responsibilities</b> </p>		
<p><b>GO</b></p>  <p><b>EMPTY-HANDED</b></p>	<p><b>#1: Go to the playground prepared.</b> Carry a whistle, portable radio, a district provided weather alert phone (one issued per elementary school), clipboard, pen or pencil, discipline forms, and student passes when supervising playground activities.</p>	 <p><b>A GOOD SUPERVISOR IS ALWAYS PREPARED</b></p>
	<p><b>#2: Only use appropriate playground designated by age group.</b> Children may play in playgrounds that are designated for ages lower than their present age, but not higher.</p>	<p><b>LOOK FOR POSTED GRADES SIGNS</b></p> <p><b>HEADSTART • PRE-KINDERGARTEN K-1 • K-2 &amp; 3-5 GRADES</b></p>
<p><b>BREAK THE RULES</b></p> 	<p><b>#3: Be familiar with and enforce playground rules.</b> Download a copy of the Playground Safety Handbook from the Environmental Health &amp; Safety Webpage &amp; read rules signs.</p>	
	<p><b>#4: Playgrounds are not permitted to be used to meet sand play curriculum</b> Toys for digging, molding, pouring, and sifting are not permitted on ANY playground.</p>	<p><b>TO MEET CURRICULUM GUIDELINES, PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS ARE PROVIDED A SAND AND WATER TABLE INSIDE THE CLASSROOM.</b></p> 
	<p><b>#5: Touch-check all playground equipment surfaces before allowing children to play.</b></p>	<p><b>TOUCH TEST PLAY SURFACES BEFORE CHILDREN PLAY!</b></p> 
	<p><b>#6: Be alert and attentive. Avoid distractions!</b> Never leave students unattended.</p>	<p><b>ALWAYS....</b></p> <p><b>BE ALERT</b></p> 
	<p><b>#7: Never allow students to play on broken equipment.</b> Keep students away from caution tape.</p>	<p><b>safety concern!</b></p> <p><b>Report safety concerns to a supervisor</b></p> 
	<p><b>#8: Make sure you can see the entire play area.</b> Avoid visual obstructions.</p>	

## Hazards to Look For:



## Photovoltaic Systems (PV) = Energy Savings

The Energy Conservation & Utility Management branch of EH&S, has been working diligently for years to institute innovative ways to conserve energy, reduce our carbon footprint and reduce utility payments. One of the most notable efforts is the use of Photovoltaic Systems which was started by FP&L Solar for Schools Program. After the contracted five (5) years Operations & Maintenance (O&M) period, these systems are now owned and maintained by the SBBC.



A total of thirteen (13) PV Systems (twelve (12) donated by FPL and one (1) done under performance contract by Johnson Controls Inc.), have been installed throughout the District. The installation dates range between 2009 and 2015. These systems are free-standing, and the kilowatts (kW) generated by these systems are connected to the existing FPL grid (account/meter) for the school. Below are photos examples of prototypes at two (2) of our schools.



*7 - Attucks Middle School - 5 kW system*



*8 - McNab Elementary School - 10 kW system*

Since completion, these 13 PV systems, ranging from 5KW to 10KW and connected to each school's electric grid, have generated the following (approximate) savings and environmental benefits:

- **Consumption (KWH): 886,712**
- **Cost avoidance: \$80,691 (at 0.091 cents/kwh)**
- **CO2 avoided: 693 Tons**

At this time, additional schools have not been identified for installation of PV systems. However, as technology continues to provide options to reduce the level of the District's energy consumption, be assured that this team will bring those options to the board for their buy-in, - making us a "greener" District.

## Shout Outs and Good bye



*9 - EH&S Director, and Tennis Pro, Surfer Dude, and . . . Family Man!*



## Farewell, "Boss"

Time Does Fly! It was only a little less than 6 short years ago, that Roger Riddlemoser took up the banner of EH&S as the new Director and began building his team to give strength and form to this area. Under his leadership, we have not only grown this department's expertise quotient, but he recognized the need for building relationships/partnerships and also developed areas of "expertise" with stakeholder groups, in order to increase our effectiveness in advancing our safety initiatives.

Thank you for your positive vibes and for seeing the good in people. It has inspired many of us to work harder than we ever had before. A boss like you doesn't come around every day. Your ability to make every team member feel valued is an irreplaceable quality. You will be missed.

**We hope you hop on every wave that comes your way and hit every tennis ball that flies by!**

Best wishes for your health and happiness as you pursue new adventures in retirement. Farewell "Boss".



**Environmental Health & Safety wants to remind you, that all staff - Managers, Foremen, Supervisors, Administrators, Chiefs and every**

*other person, no matter the job title, we all have the opportunity to choose to put Safety First every day...*

## Contact Us



**We are located at**            **4200 A NW 10 Ave**  
**Oakland Park, Florida**

**Phone**                        **754-321-4200**

### **EMAIL US:**

EHS-Help@browardschools.com<sup>8</sup> (general information, IAQ, AEDs, safety training etc.)

emshelpdesk@browardschools.com<sup>9</sup> (HVAC, recycling, etc)

**Visit us on the web at** <https://www.browardschools.com/Domain/13473>

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<sup>8</sup><mailto:EHS-Help@browardschools.com>

<sup>9</sup><mailto:EMShelpdesk@browardschools.com>

The only way to live is by accepting each minute as an unrepeatable miracle.



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