

**(Effective September 1, 2025)**

**WAC 246-366A-030 Site assessment, review, and approval.** (1) A full site assessment and local health officer review and approval to determine environmental health and safety risk, is required for:

(a) Constructing a new school facility on a site that was previously undeveloped or developed for other purposes; or

(b) Converting an existing structure for primary use as a school facility.

(2) The local health officer shall determine, in consultation with school officials, the need for and scope of the site assessment, review, and approval process for:

(a) Constructing a new school facility on an existing school site;

(b) Constructing an addition to an existing school facility; or

(c) Converting part of an existing structure primarily used for other purposes into a school facility.

(3) A full site assessment must include:

(a) A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) that meets the requirements of the *American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard #1527-05* (published November 2005);

(b) Sampling and analysis of potential contaminants if the Phase 1 ESA indicates that hazardous materials may be present. Sampling and analysis must comply with applicable rules of the Washington state department of ecology;

(c) A noise assessment. Noise from any source must not exceed an hourly average of 55 dBA (the mean sound energy level for a specified time (Leq<sub>60 minutes</sub>)) and must not exceed an hourly maximum (the maximum sound level recorded during a specified time period (Lmax)) of 75 dBA during the time of day the school is in session. Sites exceeding these sound levels are acceptable if a plan for noise reduction is included in the new construction proposal and the plan for noise reduction is approved by the local health officer.

(4) School officials shall:

(a) Notify the local health officer within ninety days of starting preliminary planning for school construction that may require a site assessment with local health officer review and approval.

(b) Consult with the local health officer throughout the plan development phase regarding the scope of the site assessment and the timeline for completion of the site assessment.

(c) Have a site assessment completed when required under this section.

(d) Submit a written report to the local health officer assessing the potential impact of health and safety risks presented by the proposed site, including, but not limited to the following:

(i) The findings and results obtained under subsection (3) of this section;

(ii) Analysis of the findings;

(iii) Description of any mitigation proposed to address identified health and safety risks present at the site; and

(iv) Any site assessment-related information requested by the local health officer to complete the site assessment review and approval process.

(e) Obtain site review and written site approval from the local health officer when required under subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(5) The local health officer shall:

(a) Conduct an inspection of the proposed site;

(b) Review the site assessment for environmental health and safety risk;

(c) For site assessments according to subsection (1) of this section, provide written approval, describe site deficiencies needing mitigation to obtain approval, or deny use of the proposed school facility site within sixty days of receiving a complete request unless the school officials and the local health officer agree to a different timeline; and

(d) For site assessments according to subsection (2) of this section, provide written approval or describe site deficiencies needing mitigation to obtain approval of the proposed school facility site within sixty days of receiving a complete request unless the school officials and the local health officer agree to a different timeline.

(6) If school officials notified the local health officer in writing prior to the effective date of this section that construction is planned for a particular site, the site review requirements in effect at the time of notification apply, provided that school officials comply with all agreed on timelines for completion.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 10-01-174, 10-12-018, 11-10-080, 13-09-040, 15-09-070, 17-14-055, 19-14-107, 21-14-056, 22-14-021, 23-16-005, and 24-14-089, § 246-366A-030, filed 12/22/09, 5/21/10, 5/3/11, 4/11/13, 4/15/15, 6/28/17, 7/2/19, 7/1/21, 6/24/22, 7/19/23, and 6/28/24, effective 9/1/25.]