



On the Alert!

Date: June 22, 2023
Attention: ASCIP Members
Affected: Administrators, Risk Management, Faculty & Staff
Applicability: K-12 & Charter Schools

SCIENCE SAFETY – EYE PROTECTION

Schools have a duty to provide a safe learning and working environment for employees and students. Science instruction and science laboratories can create the need for specific safety protocols to be in place at each school site location.

California *Education Code* Section 32030 states:

*It shall be the duty of the governing board of every school district, and of every county superintendent of schools, and of every person, firm, or organization maintaining any private school, in this state, to **equip schools with eye protective devices as defined in Section 32032, for the use of all students, teachers, and visitors when participating in the courses which are included in Section 32031.** It shall be the duty of the superintendents, principals, teachers or instructors charged with the supervision of any class in which any such course is conducted, to **require such eye protective devices to be worn** by students, teachers, or instructors and visitors under the circumstances prescribed in Section 32031.*



Science Safety Handbook

In 2012, the California Department of Education assembled a team of experts to write a Science Safety Handbook (Handbook). The Handbook was updated in 2014; however, changes to legislation and resources mentioned in the Handbook since 2014 are not incorporated. The [current Science Framework](#) to help guide science instruction was published after the Handbook.

Resources

Below is a list of resources that can help districts and charter schools better safeguard employees and students when they are performing science related activities in a school:

[Council of State Science Supervisors Science Safety Resources](#)

Resource documents to support effective safety policies in elementary schools; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics labs; and secondary science spaces. These resources can help answer many of the questions that local school boards, supervisors, educators, and parents have about safety.

[Laboratory Safety Institute](#)

Science laboratory facility guidelines and laboratory safety courses are offered by the Laboratory Safety Institute.

[Los Angeles County Office of Education Science Safety Resources](#)

Science safety resources developed as part of The Strategic Science Teaching project.

[Translations of the Science Safety Handbook's Safety Regulations for Students and Families](#)

Select pages from the Handbook that a school can send home to families. These documents appear as Appendix B in the Handbook.

ASCIP can assist with safety assessments for science laboratories.

Please contact your ASCIP Risk Services Consultant or our Risk Services team at RM_Info@ascip.org for questions or to discuss further.