

**OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS  
CHEMICALS IN SCIENCE LABORATORIES**

*Policy Code:* **7265**

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1 It is the policy of the [Transylvania County Board of Education \(the “board”\)](#) to comply with  
2 federal regulations and state statutes regarding hazardous chemicals as set forth in the Federal  
3 Register, 29 C.F.R. 1910.1450, and the North Carolina Administrative Code, 13 N.C.A.C. 7F  
4 .0101, by attempting to limit occupational exposure of employees to hazardous chemicals or  
5 other potentially hazardous materials that could cause injury or death.

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7 **A. UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**  
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9 Universal precautions must be used at all times. Because few laboratory chemicals are  
10 without hazards, the school system shall establish general precautions for handling all  
11 laboratory chemicals. Additional precautions consistent with state and federal standards  
12 shall be established for the handling of known hazardous chemicals and unknown  
13 substances. The program standards for the control of hazardous chemicals as outlined in  
14 the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) rule, “Occupational Exposure to  
15 Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories” (Standard 1910.1450), and the North Carolina  
16 Administrative Code and/or the most current standards available must be followed.  
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18 **B. SCHOOL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**  
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20 The superintendent shall ensure that:

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22 1. a Chemical Hygiene Plan is developed in accordance with OSHA-issued  
23 regulations or the most current available federal and/or state standards issued and  
24 that all elements of the Chemical Hygiene Plan are met, including, but not limited  
25 to, standard operating procedures for handling hazardous chemicals, such as the  
26 use of personal protective equipment and hygiene practices; control measures to  
27 reduce employee exposure to hazardous chemicals; standards for laboratory  
28 protective equipment; identification of laboratory procedures and activities  
29 requiring prior approval; proper employee training; and the assignment of a  
30 Chemical Hygiene Officer;  
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- 32 2. bulk elemental mercury, chemical mercury compounds, and bulk mercury  
33 compounds are not used as teaching aids in science classrooms;  
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- 35 3. labels on incoming containers of hazardous chemicals are not removed or  
36 defaced, all safety data sheets received with incoming shipments are maintained  
37 and readily accessible to employees, and a current inventory of chemicals is in use  
38 and maintained;  
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- 40 4. all employees are trained and apprised of the hazards of chemicals present in their  
41 work area and understand how to report unsafe conditions and how to perform  
42 proper cleanup;  
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- 44 5. all employees have access to a copy of the Hazardous Chemicals Policy and  
45 Chemical Hygiene Plan;
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- 47 6. science laboratories comply with the OSHA Right-to-Know legislation,  
48 bloodborne pathogens regulations (see policy 7260, Occupational Exposure to  
49 Bloodborne Pathogens), laboratory standards as provided by the Chemical  
50 Hygiene Plan, and other safety rules and guidelines of the profession;
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- 52 7. records are established and maintained of any measurements taken to monitor  
53 employee exposures and any medical consultations or examinations required;
- 54
- 55 8. the Chemical Hygiene Plan is reviewed annually by a committee appointed by the  
56 superintendent and updated as necessary;
- 57
- 58 9. this policy is reviewed annually and, as needed, updated annually; and  
59
- 60 10. a copy of the Chemical Hygiene Plan is submitted to the State Board of Education  
61 by January 31 of each school year.
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63 **C. TESTING**

64 Whenever an event, such as a spill, leak, explosion, or other occurrence resulting in the  
65 likelihood of a hazardous exposure, takes place in the work area, the employee exposed  
66 to the hazard may receive a medical examination at the school system's expense.  
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69 Legal References: 29 C.F.R. 1910.1450; G.S. 115C-47(49); 13 N.C.A.C. 7F .0101; State Board of  
70 Education Policy GCS-F-017

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72 Cross References: Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens (policy 7260)

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74 Other Resources: *Safe, Orderly, and Caring Schools Assessment Inventory*, Safety Provisions –  
75 Science Education (North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of School  
76 Improvement)

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78 Adopted: March 5, 2007

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80 Revised: [DATE]

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