

Understanding the Program & Rule Requirements

What is the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids™ program?

The Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program helps fulfill North Carolina requirements for public schools and child care facilities related to lead in water, lead-based paint, and asbestos. The goal is to identify and eliminate exposure to lead and asbestos hazards where North Carolina children learn and play. The program is a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) and RTI International. Our program is supported by our liaison, the NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI).

North Carolina Rule Requirements

[NC 10A NCAC 41C.1001-1007](#)

Effective April 1, 2023, North Carolina legislatively mandated that public schools and child care facilities address lead and asbestos hazards by:

- Testing for lead in drinking/cooking water,
- Identifying lead-based paint hazards,
- Identifying asbestos hazards, and
- Mitigating or restricting access to any identified hazards.

As this is a legislatively mandated effort to address lead and asbestos hazards, North Carolina facilities are required by law to make sure all requirements are met.

Why were the requirements enacted, and why are they important?

Exposure to lead and asbestos is a public health concern. Lead is a toxic metal with no safe level of exposure. Even at low levels of exposure, lead is associated with lifelong behavioral and cognitive deficits. Lead may be present in indoor environments including dust, paint, plumbing, such as faucet fixtures and solder, and soil.

Asbestos is a known cancer-causing agent and there is no documented safe level of asbestos exposure. Asbestos was commonly used in various building materials. When safely managed, these materials do not present a hazard.

What is the cost of the program?

Participation in the program is FREE thanks to funding from the state and federal government. The program includes free testing and inspections for lead in drinking and cooking water, lead-based paint, and asbestos. The costs for water mitigation, such as the replacement of fixtures and water filters, is also included. Lead-based paint and asbestos mitigation costs are fully reimbursed for child care facilities and up to two-thirds of mitigation cost are reimbursed for public schools. Visit bit.ly/3CK-reimburse for more information.



How can my facility get started?

Facilities will receive an email to sign up for a pre-enrollment webinar from North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (NC DCDEE) or the NC DPI.

During the pre-enrollment webinar, attendees will learn about lead and asbestos hazards, state requirements, personnel and facility information needed for the program, commonly asked questions, and tips for success. Our team will be available to answer any questions you may have at the end of the webinar.

How does the program work?

The program has three sections to fulfill the rule requirements: 1) lead in water, 2) lead-based paint, and 3) asbestos. Each section is facilitated through our online portal at www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina.

District-level staff and individual public or charter school staff should communicate to determine whether a district point-of-contact will enroll all schools in the district or individual school staff should enroll their own school.

Schools should designate a primary contact for each section. The primary contact will be responsible for completing the enrollment survey, including uploading necessary documentation, and will be the main point of contact for the section. Additional individuals can help to complete the enrollment surveys, if needed.

District-level staff may choose to be listed as informed contacts for individual schools. As an informed contact, you will receive email notifications for any updates, including results.



Enrollment

Our team will review the enrollment survey responses for each section to determine the next steps for each school:

LEAD IN WATER



We will send each school a custom water sampling kit. School staff will collect and ship drinking/cooking water samples using our user-friendly instructions and online tutorials.

NOTE: If your public or charter school includes an operating child care facility, school staff should receive the list of approved taps through the child care sanitation license. School staff filling out the enrollment survey can designate the appropriate taps accordingly.

LEAD-BASED PAINT



We will determine whether a lead risk assessment is needed or whether your facility can be exempt from the assessment requirements.

Schools may be exempt if they provide documentation associated with a lead risk assessment conducted within the past three years. Schools that were built after 1978 may also be exempt if **the superintendent or superintendent's designee** can sign an attestation that no lead-based paint was used in the buildings. If an on-site visit is needed, we will assign a certified lead risk assessor to your facility.

ASBESTOS



Local Education Agency's (LEA) AHERA designated person should be the primary contact or should be available to school staff for questions.

We will determine whether an asbestos reinspection is needed or whether your facility can be exempt from the inspection requirements.

Schools may be exempt if they provide documentation associated with a reinspection conducted within the past three years or provide asbestos inspection exemption letters when all buildings at the school were built after 1988. If an on-site visit is needed, we will assign an accredited asbestos professional to your facility.

RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

Results and recommended actions for each section will be available in the online portal for schools to notify parents, staff, and students. Facilities will consider the recommended actions and then decide whether to mitigate or restrict access to any identified hazards.

LEAD IN WATER



School staff can choose to install water filters, replace faucet fixtures, or implement other mitigation activities themselves or request our team to conduct mitigation activities.

LEAD-BASED PAINT



We will provide the recommended actions from the certified lead risk assessor. Schools are required to restrict access to or mitigate any identified hazards. Reimbursement for mitigation costs is available from NC DHHS.

ASBESTOS



We will provide the recommended actions from the accredited asbestos professional. Facilities are required to restrict access to or mitigate any identified hazards. Reimbursement for mitigation costs is available from NC DHHS.

QUESTIONS?



F.A.Qs

bit.ly/3CK-faq



Contact Us

bit.ly/3CK-contact



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1-855-997-2864



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