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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

April 11, 2023

( ) Action Required  
(X) Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 017-23 School Facilities & Organization

TO: School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
School District Facility Managers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol Update

CONTACT: Morgan Powell, High Performance Schools Coordinator  
360-725-6269, [morgan.powell@k12.wa.us](mailto:morgan.powell@k12.wa.us)

## WASHINGTON SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS PROTOCOL UPDATE

Public school district construction projects that receive any funding from the state capital budget are required by RCW 39.35D.040 to comply with LEED silver or the Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol (WSSP). The WSSP is modeled after the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) green building protocol and adapted to reflect characteristics that optimize high performance in Washington schools. The WSSP has been updated to reflect changes to legislation, building and electrical codes, and updates to other sustainable building protocols.

### Highlights of the 2023 WSSP Update

The WSSP is comprised of six categories: Site, Water, Materials and Waste, Energy, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Integration, Education and Operations. Changes were made in all six categories, but the most significantly impacted category was Energy. This is due to the extensive updates to the Washington State Electrical code since the last WSSP update in 2018. Many credits were removed from the Energy section because they are now required by code. Additionally, many credits were rewritten to help schools align with the Clean Buildings Performance Standard. Required credits were also added for PCB removal and lead-free potable water systems. The optional number of credits a project must earn to be WSSP-certified has not changed.

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The 2023 WSSP is available on OSPI's website on the High Performance School Buildings Program page. School construction projects receiving state capital funds from the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) will apply the version of WSSP in effect at the time the D4 approval is issued.

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Morgan Powell, High Performance Schools Coordinator, at 360-725-6269 or email [morgan.powell@k12.wa.us](mailto:morgan.powell@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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