



Kansas School Inspections

Kansas Environmental Health Conference
Cristi Cain, Director, Local Public Health Program
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What Local Health Departments in Kansas Need to Know

- ▶ **K.S.A. 65-202 – “shall upon the opening of the fall term of school, make or have made a sanitary inspection of each school building and grounds, and shall make or have made such additional inspections thereof as are necessary to protect the public health of students of the school.” (1885; Reviewed 1980)**
 - ▶ **The statute places the responsibility on the local health officer**
 - ▶ **It does not indicate what constitutes a sanitary inspection**
 - ▶ **Each health officer has the discretion to determine what specific sanitary issues to inspect**
 - ▶ **The statute requires inspections of K-12 public and private schools**

Overview of the School Inspections Survey

- ▶ **77% of the 78 respondents were aware there is a statute requiring local health officers to conduct sanitary inspections of each school annually (K.S.A. 65-202)**
- ▶ **40% of respondents did not know who currently is providing school inspections in their county**
- ▶ **80% did not know how long it would take to complete one school inspection**
- ▶ **58% would be very likely and 32% would be somewhat likely to access information from a website (e.g. school inspection checklists and templates from other counties)**

Top Priorities for School Inspections— Survey Results

- ▶ **Chemical use, storage and disposal**
- ▶ **Arthropod and rodent control**
- ▶ **Playground safety**
- ▶ **Water supply**
- ▶ **Asbestos**
- ▶ **General housekeeping/maintenance**



Most Significant Barriers to Effectively Conducting School Inspections

- ▶ **Lack of training**
- ▶ **Not enough staff**
- ▶ **Lack of resources**
- ▶ **Not enough time**
- ▶ **No/limited funding**



Themes from the Survey

- ▶ Other organizations already perform these inspections so why should we also do them? (5)
- ▶ Need for school administration cooperation. (5)
- ▶ No enforcement authority if problems were presented. (6)
- ▶ Inspections already done by other entities. (5)
- ▶ Need training and funding in order to do the inspections. (9)
- ▶ Staffing and equipment needs are a problem. (6)
- ▶ Time involvement can vary by school size. (4)
- ▶ Need one standardized form for all health departments to use. (3)
- ▶ Need to know who will enforce this findings if needed. (2)
- ▶ Opposition at the health department, school, or board of health. (6)



http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/local_health.html



[A to Z Topic Listing](#)

Community Health Systems Home
Aid to Local Grant
Billing and Coding Resources
Data Resources
Governor's Public Health Conference
Kansas Public Health Directory
KDHE Statewide Population Health Call
Kansas TRAIN
Local Public Health Regional Attendance Map
Public Health Connections
Public Health Resources
PH Nuisance Resources
2018 Regional Meetings/Calendar of Events
2019 Regional Meetings/Calendar of Events
Staff Directory
Student Orientation

Local Public Health Program

Kansas **TRAIN**

Recent News, Events & Documents

The Local Public Health Program of the Bureau of Community Health Systems provides coordinating activities between the state health agency, local health departments and other public health community partners.

The staff members focus on improving the public health system in Kansas through the following major goals:

- Increasing the capacity of public health agencies to perform essential public health services
- Increasing the capacity of the public health workforce to achieve core competencies for public health.
- Increasing the capacity of the public health workforce to perform community health assessments, quality improvement processes and prepare for national public health accreditation.

These goals are accomplished through provision of technical assistance to local health departments and other public health system partners, along with promotion of comprehensive public health education and training for the public health workforce, in collaboration with academic and other partners.



School Inspections for Local Health Departments



Kansas Public Health Map and Directory



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

What Does Public Health Look Like in Kansas?

- ▶ **Statute and handout**
- ▶ **Checklists (Barber, Lawrence-Douglas and Reno)**
- ▶ **Guidelines/Procedures (Reno)**
- ▶ **Example letters to schools (Lawrence-Douglas)**
- ▶ **Reports (Johnson)**
- ▶ **Manuals (Kansas-1989, Ohio)**
- ▶ **Other resources (EPA)**



Questions?



To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans