

1 **Board Policies**

Blair-Taylor School District

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3 **Series** **700**
4 **Section:** **790**
5 **Policy #:** **790.6**

BOARD OF EDUCATION
IEQ MAMAGEMENT
RADON GAS

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8 Successful school IAQ management programs are works in progress, and most districts put the
9 components of success in place over time. The "[Framework for Effective School IAQ Management:](#)
10 [Key Drivers](#)" is a system enhanced by continuous reinforcement. Implementation of one Key Driver
11 will support and contribute to the development of another.

12 Strategies that support the Key Drivers complement this positive feedback loop. Overall program
13 efficiency increases as school districts incorporate each Key Driver into their programs. This document
14 describes how the "Framework for Effective School IAQ Management: Key Drivers" displayed in the
15 graphic on the right (**click on each of the circles** to find more information) can help schools address
16 radon risks as part of a comprehensive IAQ management process.

17 Successful IAQ management in schools comprises effective pollution source control. Radon — a
18 radioactive gas — is one of the most hazardous indoor pollutants. Radon is the leading cause of lung
19 cancer among non-smokers. In the U.S., an estimated 20,000 people die from radon-induced lung cancer
20 annually. Thousands of classrooms nationwide have elevated radon levels, needlessly exposing
21 hundreds of thousands of students and staff to this serious health risk.

22 EPA recommends testing all schools for radon. As part of an effective IAQ management program,
23 schools can take simple steps to test for radon and reduce risks to occupants if high radon levels are
24 found. The only way to know if elevated radon levels are present is to test. Many schools have
25 successfully applied radon mitigation strategies to control indoor radon levels.

26 Radon gas enters from the soil beneath the school through cracks and openings in the foundation. Air
27 pressure inside a building is sometimes lower than pressure in the soil under the foundation. Because of
28 this difference in pressure, a building acts like a vacuum, drawing radon inside from the soil. Typical
29 cracks and openings include joints where the floor meets the wall, expansion joints in the floor,
30 openings in the floor for pipes and wires, and hollow masonry walls that penetrate the floor.

31 EPA offers detailed guidance on radon testing, results interpretation and mitigation in schools. Also, the
32 [IAQ Design Tools for Schools](#) provides guidance on how to control radon in renovation and construction
33 projects and how to manage radon risks during repair, renovation and maintenance of existing facilities.

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36 **LEGAL REFERENCE:**

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38 **First Reading: 1-21-13**

Adopted: 2-21-13

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41 **Clerk:** _____
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