

OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL ACTION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH (SASH) PROGRAM



What Does The SASH Program Offer School Districts?

The School Action for Safety and Health (SASH) Program is a state-wide initiative to help school districts reduce the high rate of work-related injuries and illnesses among school employees. The program is coordinated by the California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) and implemented by the Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) at UC Berkeley.

SASH uses a three-pronged approach to help improve workplace health and safety in schools throughout California:

1. A free training program to help build the capacity of district-level employees with health and safety responsibilities to serve as resources to other employees and help develop an injury and illness prevention program to identify, prevent and eliminate hazards. Once they complete the training, trainees are designated as "SASH Coordinator(s)" for their district and receive a certificate from the University of California and the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation.
2. Written materials to educate employees about workplace hazards and solutions.
3. Problem-solving assistance provided in an ongoing manner by a statewide resource center located at UC Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program.

The Training Program

SASH offers a free one-day training program for the staff members from each school district that are responsible for employee safety and health. These individuals are typically from human resources/administration and/or the Maintenance and Operations department.

* Did you know?

- School employees, as a whole, have a higher rate of work-related injuries and illnesses than the average California worker.



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After going through the day-long training program, participants receive a certificate of completion from the University of California and the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation and are designated as "SASH Coordinators" for their school district.

SASH Coordinators learn valuable skills needed for the following possible roles:

- Overseeing the development and implementation of a successful injury and illness prevention program in their district.
- Identifying a full range of potential hazards on the job and uncovering underlying causes of injury and illness.
- Evaluating and participating in efforts to reduce or eliminate common occupational hazards in schools.
- Participating effectively on a health and safety committee.
- Serving as a health and safety resource for co-workers, the unions, district administrators, and others.
- Involving other employees in carrying out prevention activities.

The trainings are provided by University of California trainers and are held in convenient locations so trainees do not have to travel far to attend.

SASH Materials

The SASH Program offers free written materials, all tailored to the specific needs of schools and designed to help SASH Coordinators carry out their safety activities and educate school employees. Materials include:

- An on-line template for use in writing an injury and illness prevention plan, with an accompanying Guidebook.
- Factsheets on hazards commonly found in schools.
- Checklists and other tools to help identify problems, investigate and learn from accidents, and keep track of safety activities.
- Job-specific tip sheets for employees on the hazards and solutions for their particular occupation.
- An online resource guide that provides additional materials on particular school-related hazards, information on related laws and regulations, and a list of relevant agencies and organizations.



The SASH Resource Center

The SASH Resource Center is located at UC Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program. In collaboration with UCLA's Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program, the Resource Center is available to help school districts find additional information and obtain assistance after the SASH Program trainings. For more information, contact:

SASH Statewide Resource Center
Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP)
University of California Berkeley
2199 Addison St., Suite 451
Berkeley, CA 94720-7360
510-642-5507
510-643-5698 (Fax)
www.lohp.org

Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation
(CHSWC)
1515 Clay Street, 17th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-622-3959
510-286-0499 (Fax)
www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/sash

Southern California training partner
Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program, UCLA
10945 LeConte Ave., Suite 2107
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1478
310-794-5992
www.losh.ucla.edu



The following agencies and organizations that assisted in the development of the SASH program activities and materials include: California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO); California Department of Education; California Federation of Teachers (CFT); California School Employees Association (CSEA); California Teachers Association (CTA); Contra Costa County Schools Insurance Group; Keenan & Associates; North Bay Schools Insurance Authority; San Diego County Schools Risk Management JPA; and Schools Insurance Authority.