
*Rescinds Policy Number:**Issued: 12/03/2007*

The Orange County Board of Education is committed to providing safe and healthful working conditions for the employees of the school system. As a result of this commitment, a respiratory protection program has been developed and implemented that meets the minimum requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) under Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1910.134. This Respiratory Protection Program addresses the use of respiratory protection as a method to protect employees from exposures to airborne biological, chemical, and physical agents to safe levels below exposure limits. Whenever feasible, engineering controls and work practice controls will first be used to maintain worker exposures below exposure limits and at a safe level. It is understood that respiratory protection shall only be required if these controls are not feasible or are not able to reduce exposures adequately.

The respiratory program administrator shall be designated by the superintendent of schools. The administrator shall have sufficient knowledge of respiratory protection to properly supervise the respirator program. The administrator is responsible for:

1. preparing, reviewing and periodically revising the respiratory program;
2. purchasing approved respirators, issuing respirators and controlling inventory;
3. verifying that respirators have been inspected for defects;
4. monitoring and evaluating respiratory hazards in the workplace;
5. maintaining records of exposure assessments, training, respirator care and maintenance, employees trained in respirator use and other records as required by federal regulations; and
6. requiring activities necessary to ensure compliance with the respiratory protection program.

Employees have a responsibility to follow instructions and training in the use of respiratory protective equipment. Employees should immediately report when a respirator does not work properly.

Failure of employees to comply with the rules of the respiratory safety program may result in disciplinary action.

Legal References: 29 C.F.R. §1910.134