



SISC BULLETIN

SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS of CALIFORNIA

December 1, 2006

TO: District Superintendents
SISC Member Districts

FROM: Catherine Wilson Jones
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SUBJECT: Air Fresheners and Candles



Classrooms are dynamic environments with the ability to generate unusual, and sometimes unwelcome, odors. Classroom odors are often responsible for prompting instructors to install air freshening devices in the room in order to mask the unwanted odor. Air freshening devices can consist of plug-in devices, passive emitters, candles, and/or the use of aerosol sprays. SISC does not recommend the use of such items in the classroom.

Air fresheners are chemically based; therefore, it is hard to predict whether a person will have a respiratory sensitivity or other physical reaction, such as headaches. If air fresheners are being used in an attempt to control odors or mask “stale air”, consideration should be given to adjusting the ventilation system. If operating properly, the system should bring in enough outside air to keep odors under control.

The use of candles as air fresheners is dangerous and should never be allowed. The use of candles for this purpose, as well as other purposes, is a violation of both the California Building Code (Title 24) and the regulations of the State Fire Marshall (Title 19).

The best strategy in maintaining comfortable indoor air is not by introducing more “chemicals” but by providing properly functioning ventilation systems and educating instructors in proper use.

CWJ:sh