



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

June 11, 2008

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Environmental Health Committee, State Board of Health—  
Keith Higman, Karen VanDusen, and John Austin

**SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON PRELIMINARY COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR  
THIRD DRAFT OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND  
SAFETY RULES: CHAPTER 246-366A WAC**

**Background and Summary**

The development of a significant rule by a state agency requires an analysis of the costs versus the benefits of the proposal. Department of Health (DOH) staff has prepared a preliminary cost-benefit analysis for the Third Draft of the school rule revision proposal. A copy is contained in the Board's packet under Tab 10.

The cost-benefit analysis addresses only the added costs the proposal would impose above existing rule requirements. The information is presented section-by-section and describes the intent, background, public health benefit, significant changes from existing requirements, assumptions, and the cost estimates. Cost estimates may include costs imposed by new requirements, even though many schools already voluntarily meet the new requirements. Cost estimates were obtained through meetings, surveys, and phone calls with stakeholders; research; and by contracting with a building design consultant. The cost estimates are usually stated as a range of amounts.

The process can result in estimates that differ from those of specific stakeholders. However, differences in estimates are most often caused by differences in assumptions about what the rule provisions require. Therefore, a large part of the challenge for DOH staff has been to try to align assumptions with stakeholders.

Mark Soltman, Department of Health Office of Environmental Health and Safety, is here today to give a summary of the analysis process and highlight the analysis of a few of the provisions. His presentation can be found under Tab 10.

**Recommended Board Action**

The Committee recommends that the Board take this opportunity to ask questions or provide feedback on items of particular interest to individual members.