

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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Tom Pritchard, Superintendent

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woodland Joint Unified School District and the Woodland Coalition for Green Schools Moving to the Forefront of Green Building Practices

Woodland, Calif., December 19, 2019 – At its recent December 18, 2019 school board meeting, Trustees approved a revision to its green schools policy focusing flooring efforts on more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. First and foremost, this policy will give our children cleaner and healthier classrooms in which to learn. Safe floors are a priority because children spend a lot of time touching and breathing close to the ground. Just a few years ago, the idea of having a "green school" would have generated a conversation about the color of a building. But at WJUSD, that's changing.

Today, the district, along with community partners, utilized a joint district-community committee to take a positive step toward providing healthier school environments for our students.

WJUSD schools are increasingly going "green." Superintendent Tom Pritchard stated, "We have increasingly more active student gardens which are tied to the local Farm To Fork initiative, we have already reduced our carbon footprint by installing solar panels, we are reviewing use of pesticides and cleaning products; and today, we have taken a step to create a policy that will drive how we provide flooring throughout the district."

"Together we crafted what is now the most health-protective flooring policy of any public school district in the country. It follows three simple principles: (1) you can't always trust industry and must consult third-party certifications, (2) we must stay abreast of new research about possible harmful ingredients for children's health, and (3) budgets should take into account savings from the total cost of ownership of hard floors that last longer than carpet and are easier to maintain," stated Dr. Liza Grandia of the Woodland Coalition for Green Schools.

Ultimately, we hope the District's efforts provides a healthier learning environment, which in turn improves student learning.

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