



TUOLUMNE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

SCHOOL FACILITY AND CLASSROOM FURNISHING POLICY

To: TJPA Member District Superintendents and Designated Administrators

From: Tuolumne Joint Powers Authority

Date: _____

Re: SB 848 – School Facility and Classroom Furnishing Guidelines

Purpose

Senate Bill 848 (2025) amended California Education Code section 32100 to address school facilities and furnishings and requires school districts to establish written policies, plans, or specifications concerning classroom and non-classroom environments that promote safe environments for learning and engagement that are easily supervised.

To assist TJPA member districts with implementation, the Tuolumne Joint Powers Authority has developed the attached **TJPA School Facility and Classroom Furnishing Policy**.

The policy is intended to provide districts with a practical, risk-management-based framework for evaluating classroom furnishings and room configurations while maintaining appropriate flexibility for legitimate educational and student-support needs.

TJPA Recommendation

TJPA recommends that each member district:

1. Review the attached Board Policy;
2. Adopt or otherwise incorporate appropriate provisions into the district's policies and administrative regulations;
3. Communicate the requirements to principals, site administrators, teachers, and other employees responsible for classroom environments;
4. Conduct an initial review of classroom and student-accessible areas;
5. Remove, relocate, or replace furnishings that do not meet district requirements;
6. Document exceptions when specialized furnishings are necessary for legitimate educational, wellness, accessibility, health, special education, or student-support purposes; and
7. Incorporate classroom furnishing and supervision considerations into periodic site safety or facility inspections.

The policy is designed to address several common risk concerns associated with classroom furnishings and room configuration, including:

- Maintaining reasonable visibility of students;
- Supporting appropriate student supervision;
- Preventing concealed or secluded areas;
- Maintaining appropriate adult/student boundaries;
- Reducing trip, fall, and other injury hazards;
- Maintaining emergency access and evacuation routes;
- Preserving accessibility;
- Preventing obstruction of doors, windows, emergency equipment, and required pathways;
- Maintaining sanitary and easily cleanable furnishings; and
- Ensuring that classroom environments remain appropriate for an educational setting.

The policy specifically identifies residential-style furniture, including couches, loveseats, recliners, bean bag chairs, mattresses, bedding, and similar household furnishings, as items that generally should not be used in classrooms or student instructional areas.

Flexibility and Exceptions

TJPA recognizes that some educational settings may require specialized furnishings.

For example, certain special education programs, early childhood programs, counseling or wellness settings, sensory environments, health-related areas, or other specialized programs may have legitimate reasons for using furnishings that would not ordinarily be appropriate in a traditional classroom.

Accordingly, the policy includes an exception process that allows the district to evaluate the specific need while considering:

- Student safety;
- Age and developmental level;
- Visibility and supervision;
- Accessibility;
- Emergency egress;
- Fire and life safety;
- Sanitation;
- Injury prevention; and
- The potential for inappropriate concealment or isolation.

The existence of an exception should not be interpreted as a permanent authorization. Districts may periodically review whether the furnishing remains necessary and appropriate.

Personal and Donated Furniture

TJPA recommends that districts establish a process requiring prior approval before employees, parents, volunteers, or community members bring personal or donated furniture into classrooms or student-accessible areas.

This is particularly important because furniture purchased or donated for residential use may not have been selected for an educational environment and may create concerns related to safety, sanitation, supervision, accessibility, or durability.

Implementation Checklist

The attached **Classroom & Student Area Furnishings Checklist** may be used by site administrators as an initial implementation tool and may subsequently be incorporated into routine site safety inspections.

The checklist is not intended to replace professional judgment. Administrators should address any furnishing or classroom configuration that presents a safety or supervision concern, even when the specific item is not expressly identified on the checklist.

The specific furnishing restrictions contained in the TIPA Policy are risk mitigation recommendations adopted by the district through its own policy and administrative process.

The policy is intended to assist districts in establishing reasonable, consistent standards for school facilities and furnishings that support the statutory objective of providing safe and easily supervised learning environments.

Attachments:

1. TIPA Board Policy – School Facilities and Furnishings
2. SB 848 Classroom & Student Area Furnishings Checklist