

08 - 0128

Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project

Report to the Minnesota Legislature 2008

Minnesota Department of Health

February 1, 2008



Commissioner's Office
85 East Seventh Place, Suite 400
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
(651) 215-1300
www.health.state.mn.us

Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project

February 1, 2008

**For more information, contact: Laura Oatman
Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease
Minnesota Department of Health
85 E. 7th Place
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882**

**Phone: (651) 201-5900
Fax: (651) 201-5898
TDD: (651) 201-5797**

As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$8,000 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille or cassette tape.
Printed on recycled paper.

Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Directive Language	1
Background Information.....	1
Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup	2
Recommendations	3
Table 1-Existing Activities and Programs that Incorporate Fragrance-Free Information	5
Table 2-Possible Opportunities to Provide Fragrance-Free Education	6
Table 3-Existing Methods of Communication to Provide Parents with Fragrance-Free Education.....	6
Appendix	7
1. 2007 Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Legislation	7
2. Summary Notes from Meetings 1 – 3	8



Commissioner's Office
85 East Seventh Place, Suite 400
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
(651) 215-1300
www.health.state.mn.us

Introduction

The 2007 Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), in collaboration with the Minneapolis Board of Education, to establish a workgroup to recommend a fragrance-free education campaign for Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS). Workgroup members were recommended by Minneapolis district staff and by Take Back the Air, a Minneapolis grassroots organization. The Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup met on October 22, November 26, and December 10, 2007.

Directive Language

Legislative Session 85, Minnesota Session Laws 2007 – Chapter 147 excerpt:

Sec. 4. FRAGRANCE-FREE SCHOOLS EDUCATION PILOT PROJECT.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** Recognizing that scented products may trigger asthma or chemical sensitivity reactions in students and school staff, which can contribute to learning and breathing problems, the commissioner of health shall develop a fragrance-free schools education pilot project.

Subdivision 2. **Education.** The commissioner of health, in collaboration with the Minneapolis Board of Education, shall establish a working group composed of at least three students, two teachers, one school administrator, and one member of the Minneapolis Board of Education to recommend an education campaign in Minneapolis public schools to inform students and parents about the potentially harmful effects of the use of fragrance products on sensitive students and school personnel in Minneapolis schools. The commissioner shall report findings to the legislature by February 1, 2008.

Background Information

The use of fragrances and scented products has increased in recent years. An *Environmental Health Perspectives* article “estimated that there are more than 3,000 chemicals used in the manufacture of fragrances. Synthetic organic chemicals constitute more than 80-90% (by weight and value) of the raw materials used in flavor and fragrance formulations. A single fragrance may contain as few as 10 chemicals or as many as several hundred.”¹

Concern about chemicals released from air fresheners prompted a September 19, 2007, petition by the Sierra Club, the Alliance for Healthy Homes, the National Center for Healthy Housing, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.² The petition requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to assess public health risk from exposure to air fresheners and take steps to reduce that risk.

Exposure to fragrance products has been associated with eye and respiratory symptoms in sensitive individuals within of the general population. A controlled study of 42 people found

¹ Fisher BE. 1998 “Focus: scents and sensitivity”, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 106 (12), A594-599.

² Sierra Club, Alliance for Healthy Homes, National Center for Healthy Housing, and Natural Resources Defense Council, Citizen Petition to EPA and CPSC Regarding Air Fresheners, dated September 19, 2007.

vapors of perfume generated eye irritation in both individuals sensitive to perfume exposure and individuals who did not experience respiratory symptoms upon exposure to perfume.³

The Institute of Medicine, with funding from the USEPA examined the role of indoor air exposures in the development and exacerbation of asthma. The 2000 report, *Clearing the Air: Asthma and Indoor Air Exposures*⁴, summarizes the findings from an extensive literature review. The IOM report stated there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate an association between exposure to fragrances and development of asthma in the general population.

Chemical irritants and strong smells can trigger asthma in sensitive individuals. The fragrance section of the 2000 IOM report concludes “avoidance is clearly the most straightforward means of addressing problematic exposures for sensitive individuals.”

Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup

The Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup was comprised of MPS students, teachers, a school administrator, a school board member, administrative staff, and Minneapolis citizens with an interest in providing fragrance-free schools. The names and affiliations of workgroup members are provided below. The 2007 Minnesota Legislature charged the Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup “to recommend an education campaign in Minneapolis public schools to inform students and parents about the potentially harmful effects of the use of fragrance products on sensitive students and school personnel in Minneapolis schools.”

Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup Members

Hattie Bonds, Assistant Principal, MPS
Bettye Brown, Teacher, MPS
Mary Heiman, Nursing Service Manager, MPS
Kathy Johnston, Grandparent of Olson sisters (below)
Lydia Lee, Minneapolis Board of Education
Julie Mellum, President, Take Back the Air
Ken Meyer, Environmental Health & Safety Manager, MPS
Cassie Morgan, Student, MPS
Lynn Nordgren, Teacher, MPS
Ashlee Olson, Student, private school
Shelby Rose Olson, Student, private school

Other Attendees

Justice Brown, Student, MPS
Nefertiti Brown, Student, MPS
Cordell M. James, Student, MPS

³ Elberling J. Duus Johansen J. Dirksen A. Mosbech H. 2006 “Exposure of eyes to perfume: a double-blind, placebo-controlled experiment”, *Indoor Air*, 16 (4), 276-281.

⁴ Institute of Medicine. *Clearing the Air: Asthma and Indoor Air Exposures*, Washington, DC, Institute of Medicine, National Academy Press, 2000.

Minnesota Department of Health Staff

Janet Keysser, Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Division

Laura Oatman, Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Division

The Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup met on October 22, November 26, and December 10, 2007. Appendix 2 provides the full meeting summaries. The first meeting began with a review of the workgroup's charge. Members discussed the issues that prompted the legislative decision to include a pilot education campaign in Minneapolis public schools (MPS). A general discussion followed in response to two questions: "What are fragrances" and "What are the issues regarding fragrances in schools". The first question generated a list of fragranced and scented products. The issues regarding fragrances in schools included children with perfume or other scented products, school personnel with perfume or other scented products, room products such as air fresheners, staff using their own cleaning agents or hand sanitizers, and "scented" community members who come into schools.

The second meeting focused on MPS activities that currently incorporate fragrance-free information and opportunities for developing new fragrance-free messages. MPS staff described many activities that already occur to promote fragrance-free environments. The group discussed other issues that need to be considered for an educational campaign including the importance of providing information on alternatives to fragranced products, especially reasonably priced alternatives, the reading level of information, and the need for translating materials. Several workgroup members emphasized that fragrances are a health concern for all students and staff and not just people who are sensitive to fragrances.

During the third meeting, members discussed the challenge of convincing people that fragrances and scented products can be a problem, especially for sensitive individuals. Consequently, a fragrance-free schools education campaign will require a multi-media approach. Workgroup members offered several suggestions on how to reach parents (send a letter home with students, automated phone message, automated e-mail, and notices at school open houses and other events). The workgroup encouraged Minneapolis public schools to continue their current fragrance-free education activities. Priorities for new activities included adding fragrance-free information to student handbooks, developing information to incorporate into online health courses, developing signage and fact sheets, and incorporating fragrance-free information into current methods of communicating with parents on other school-based issues. The group discussed MPS district staff collaborating with the MDH and possibly the Minnesota Department of Education to develop fragrance-free language that could be incorporated into a variety of educational materials and opportunities.

Recommendations

During the Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup meetings, members discussed fragrance-free education activities already occurring in Minneapolis public schools, education activities undertaken by other organizations, and what makes a successful education campaign. The Workgroup recommended:

1. A multi-media fragrance-free education campaign;
2. Continuation of Minneapolis public schools current fragrance-free education activities;
3. New fragrance-free education activities for Minneapolis public schools; and
4. Minneapolis public schools collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education to develop language for an education campaign in the Minneapolis school district.

1. Members recommended a “multi media” education campaign, with fragrance-free information provided in several formats including letters to parents, fact sheets, entrance signs, voice mail, e-mail, and the Internet.

2. Workgroup members encouraged Minneapolis public schools to continue the fragrance-free education activities listed in Table 1. They were appreciative of the many activities Minneapolis public schools are already undertaking regarding fragrances such as educating new health office staff on fragrances as an asthma trigger for sensitive students and school personnel. They also supported other school district activities such as increasing the ventilation rates in buildings and purchasing environmentally preferable cleaning products.

3. Workgroup members suggested new opportunities to provide fragrance-free information (Table 2 and Table 3). Priorities for new activities included adding fragrance-free information to student handbooks, developing information to incorporate into online health courses, developing signage and fact sheets, and incorporating fragrance-free information into current methods of communicating with parents on other school-based issues. The workgroup agreed that developing an educational campaign should include providing information on alternatives to fragranced products especially reasonably priced alternatives, having a reading level of materials that is easy to understand, and translating some written information into other languages.

4. Several examples of fragrance-free education materials were distributed during the three workgroup meetings. Because print materials must be easy to read and understand, members recommended that Minneapolis public schools collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education to develop language for a fragrance-free education campaign in Minneapolis Public Schools.

**Table 1
Existing Activities and Programs that Incorporate Fragrance-Free Information**

Activity	Format	Frequency	Students	Staff	Parents
Fragrance statement(s) in District "Hotline" in the fall and as requested*	E-mail that provides link to full text	Weekly		Receive (others can sign up to receive)	
<i>Active with Asthma</i> Curriculum in Level I health includes fragrance info	Classroom instruction	Once	Receive if enrolled in Level I Health; asthma is 1-2 day class		
Healthy Learners Asthma Initiative Orientation for new health office includes fragrance info	Training	Once		Receive 3 hour orientation to asthma includes fragrances as trigger	
Licensed School Nurse & administration posts "fragrance statement" in school site communication (as needed)	Print or E-mail (school site decision)	As requested (based upon individual need)	Receive	Receive	Receive
Teaching opportunities	Incorporate fragrance-free message into classroom discussions such as health and science classes		Receive		

Table 2
Possible Opportunities to Provide Fragrance-Free Education

Activity	Format	Frequency	Students	Staff	Parents
School signage about fragrance (locker room; bathroom; school entry)	Print Sticker Window cling	Post every year; more if needed	Receive	Receive	Receive
Student handbook	Print	Every year	Receive	Receive	
Fragrance-Free Fact Sheets	Print Electronic	Every year	Receive	Receive	Receive
School assemblies	Verbal		Receive	Receive	
Student produced video	Web	Create video and update as needed	Receive		
Public Service Announcements	Print Electronic Web		Receive	Receive	Receive
Online student courses	Internet		Receive		

Table 3
Existing Methods of Communication to Provide Parents with Fragrance-Free Education

Activity	Format	Frequency
Send letter home with student	Paper	
School messenger automated phone messaging system	Voice mail	School site specific
Automated e-mail	Electronic	School site specific
School Open House or other school site meetings	In person	
District staff newsletter "Hotline"	Electronic	Weekly
School specific handbook or home web page	School site specific	School site specific

Appendix 1

2007 Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Legislation

Sec. 4. FRAGRANCE-FREE SCHOOLS EDUCATION PILOT PROJECT.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** Recognizing that scented products may trigger asthma or chemical sensitivity reactions in students and school staff, which can contribute to learning and breathing problems, the commissioner of health shall develop a fragrance-free schools education pilot project.

Subdivision 2. **Education.** The commissioner of health, in collaboration with the Minneapolis Board of Education, shall establish a working group composed of at least three students, two teachers, one school administrator, and one member of the Minneapolis Board of Education to recommend an education campaign in Minneapolis public schools to inform students and parents about the potentially harmful effects of the use of fragrance products on sensitive students and school personnel in Minneapolis schools. The commissioner shall report findings to the legislature by February 1, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Laws of Minnesota 2007, Chapter 147, Article 17, Section 4
Signed May 25, 2007

Appendix 2

Summary Notes from Meetings 1 – 3

Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup Meeting #1

October 22, 2007 (Revised November 27, 2007)

Webster School

Minneapolis

4 – 5:30 pm

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ <u>Members Present:</u> | ▪ <u>Members Absent:</u> | ▪ <u>MDH Staff:</u> |
| ▪ Hattie Bonds | ▪ Lydia Lee | ▪ Janet Keysser |
| ▪ Bettye Brown | ▪ Lynn Nordgren | ▪ Laura Oatman |
| ▪ Mary Heiman | | |
| ▪ Kathy Johnston | | |
| ▪ Julie Mellum | | |
| ▪ Ken Meyer | | |
| ▪ Cassie Morgan | | |
| ▪ Ashley Olson | | |

Welcome/Introductions

Laura Oatman with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) began the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves. Contact information was reviewed by everyone and corrections/changes noted. MDH staff will make corrections to workgroup members' contact information

Review Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Legislation

Workgroup members discussed the issues that prompted the legislation and the decision to include a pilot education campaign in Minneapolis public schools. MDH staff mentioned a legislative report is due by February 1, 2008.

General Discussion

The workgroup members were asked to discuss two questions: "What are fragrances" and "What are the issues regarding fragrances in schools". Their responses (listed below) were recorded on flip chart paper. Also listed are the "parking lot" issues that may be discussed at future meetings.

What are Fragrances? What are the priorities? (T= teacher, S = student)*

- Perfumes (T, S)
- Colognes
- After Shaves
- Hairspray (S)
- Scented hair gels
- Scented hairsprays & conditioners
- Body sprays
- Hand lotions (T, S)
- Scented deodorants (T, S)

- Essential Oils
- Scented laundry detergents (T)
- Scented and unscented laundry dryer sheets (T)
- Fabric softeners
- Air fresheners / room deodorants
- Scented candles
- Incense (cultural issues, incense prohibited @ school anyway)
- Antibacterial soaps
- Hand sanitizers (for example, Purell brand)

**The T (teacher) and S (student) are responses from individual members of the workgroup when asked which of the products listed above cause problems for them.*

What are the Issues Regarding Fragrances in Schools

- **Children** with perfume or other scented products
- **School personnel** with perfume or other scented products
- **Room products** (air fresheners, staff using own cleaning agents, hand sanitizers)
- **Community members** who come into schools (including parents and siblings)

Parking Lot

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Green Cleaners

Dose response (acute / chronic)

We should all begin to practice using fragrance-free products

Upcoming Meetings and Agenda

The next two meetings are from 4 to 5:30 PM @ Webster School Room #164 (just down the hall from our first meeting room)

Meeting dates

- Second meeting: Monday, November 26, 2007
- Third meeting: Monday, December 10, 2007

- Agenda items
- Second meeting
 - What are we doing now
 - Begin discussion of educational campaign including how do we reach students & parents
- Third meeting
 - Continue discussion of educational campaign

Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup Meeting #2
November 26, 2007
Webster School
Minneapolis
4 – 5:30 pm

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ <u>Members Present:</u> | ▪ <u>Members Absent:</u> | ▪ <u>MDH Staff:</u> |
| ▪ Hattie Bonds | ▪ Lynn Nordgren | ▪ Janet Keysser |
| ▪ Bettye Brown | | ▪ Laura Oatman |
| ▪ Mary Heiman | | |
| ▪ Kathy Johnston | | |
| ▪ Lydia Lee | | |
| ▪ Julie Mellum | | |
| ▪ Ken Meyer | | |
| ▪ Cassie Morgan | | |
| ▪ Ashlee Olson | | |
| ▪ Shelby Rose Olson | | |

Introductions

Laura Oatman with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) began the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves. Revised contact information was reviewed by everyone and corrections/changes were noted on the membership list.

Review of October 22, 2007 Meeting Summary

Workgroup members reviewed the summary of the first Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project meeting. Several members requested clarification on the T (teacher) and S (student) listed after specific products such as perfumes, hand lotions and scented deodorants. The general comment was that the chemicals used in all fragrances could be harmful to people. The October 22 meeting notes will be revised to clarify that the T (teacher) and S (student) were notations specific to individual members of the workgroup.

General Discussion

MDH staff, with the assistance of Mary Heiman and Ken Meyer, prepared a table of activities that either currently incorporate fragrance-free information or may provide opportunities for new fragrance-free messages. Workgroup members discussed the list of activities and suggested additional opportunities for reaching students, staff and parents. The group discussed other issues that need to be considered for an educational campaign including alternatives to fragranced products especially reasonably priced alternatives, the reading level of information and the need for translating materials.

Work group members were appreciative of the many activities Minneapolis schools are already undertaking regarding fragrances such as educating new health office staff on fragrances as an asthma trigger for sensitive students and school personnel. Other school district activities include increasing the ventilation rates in buildings and purchasing environmentally preferable cleaning products.

Comments from workgroup members have been incorporated into Table 1 “Opportunities to Incorporate Fragrance-Free Education into Existing Activities and Programs” and Table 2 “Possible Opportunities to Provide Fragrance-Free Education” below. A workgroup member suggested editing the fragrance statement in the district “Hotline” (see * for current text).

Table 1
Opportunities to Incorporate Fragrance-Free Education into Existing Activities and Programs

Current Activity	Format	Frequency	Students	Staff	Parents
School handbooks	Print	Every year	Receive	Receive	
Fragrance statement(s) in District “Hotline” in the fall and as requested*	E-mail that provides link to full text	Weekly		Receive (others can sign up to receive)	
<i>Active with Asthma</i> Curriculum in Level I health includes fragrance info	Classroom instruction	Once	Receive if enrolled in Level I Health; asthma is 1-2 day class		
Healthy Learners Asthma Initiative Orientation for new health office includes fragrance info	Training	Once		Receive 3 hour orientation to asthma includes fragrances as trigger	
Licensed School Nurse & administration posts “fragrance statement” in school site communication as needed	Print or E-mail (school site decision)	As requested (based upon individual need)	Receive	Receive	Receive
Teaching opportunities	Incorporate fragrance-free message into classroom discussions such as health and science classes		Receive		

* Attention all MPS staff:

- “Exposure to fragrances and scents can cause some of our staff and students to experience upper respiratory irritation, asthma, headaches and other symptoms. Sources of fragrance and scents include perfume, cologne, after-shave, hairsprays, body lotions and industrial products such as room fresheners. All staff are encouraged to use personal products that are fragrance-free. Fresh evergreens like pine, and other fresh flowers, while festive, can also cause some students and staff to experience allergy symptoms. Please be sensitive to the health needs of your co-workers and students. Thank you for your cooperation”
- “You are encouraged to avoid using scented products during the school day. There are a large number of students and staff in the district who have asthma and allergies. Scented personal products, such as perfume or cologne, or industrial products such as room fresheners, can trigger an asthma attack or other reactions”.

Table 2
Possible Opportunities to Provide Fragrance-Free Education

Possible Activity	Format	Frequency	Students	Staff	Parents
School signage about fragrance (locker room; bathroom; school entry)	Print Sticker Window cling	Post every year; more if needed	Receive	Receive	Receive
Fragrance-Free statement in student handbook (same as 1 st item in Table 1)	Print	Every year	Receive		
Fragrance Fact Sheets	Print Electronic	Every year	Receive	Receive	Receive
School assemblies	Verbal		Receive	Receive	
Student video	Web	Create video and update as needed	Receive		

Ken Meyer and Julie Mellum distributed fragrance-free educational materials for review by workgroup members. These items included:

- Public Service Announcements
- Posters for building entrances and other locations
- Fact sheets
- Job Accommodation Network publication “Accommodation and Compliance Series: Employees with Fragrance Sensitivity

Workgroup members commented that these publications included information that could be incorporated into an educational campaign for Minneapolis students, staff and parents.

Next Steps and December 10 Meeting Agenda

Laura Oatman will send members a revised activity table and asked everyone to review the materials provided by Ken Meyer prior to the third workgroup meeting. The third meeting is on Monday, December 10, 2007 from 4 to 5:30 PM @ Webster School Room #164

Tentative agenda items for third meeting

- Continue discussion of educational campaign

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

**Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project Workgroup Meeting #3
December 10, 2007
Webster School
Minneapolis
4 – 5:30 pm**

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ <u>Members Present:</u> | ▪ <u>Members Absent:</u> | ▪ <u>MDH Staff:</u> |
| ▪ Hattie Bonds | ▪ Cassie Morgan | ▪ Laura Oatman |
| ▪ Bettye Brown | ▪ Lynn Nordgren | |
| ▪ Mary Heiman | | |
| ▪ Kathy Johnston | ▪ <u>Student Guests:</u> | |
| ▪ Lydia Lee | ▪ Justice Brown | |
| ▪ Julie Mellum | ▪ Nefertiti Brown | |
| ▪ Ken Meyer | ▪ Cordell M. James | |
| ▪ Ashlee Olson | | |
| ▪ Shelby Rose Olson | | |

Introductions

Laura Oatman with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) began the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves. Hattie Bonds brought three students to the meeting: Justice Brown (9th grade), Nefertiti Brown (10th grade) and Cordell M. James (9th grade).

Review of November 26, 2007 Meeting Summary

Workgroup members reviewed the summary of the second Fragrance-Free Schools Education Pilot Project meeting. No correction or changes were made to the meeting summary.

General Discussion

The following items were distributed to members:

- Draft language for a fragrance-free message (intended to generate discussion)
- E-mail regarding online Health & Physical Education courses for Minneapolis students

- Excerpt from 2005-2007 Minneapolis Federation of Teachers contract regarding fragrance-free environments (Article XIII, page 160)
- Healthy Kids: The Key to Basics web page “How fragrance-free policies can lead to healthy breathing and high performance at school” printed November 29, 2007

Comments from workgroup members have been incorporated into Table 1 “Opportunities to Incorporate Fragrance-Free Education into Existing Activities and Programs” and Table 2 “Possible Opportunities to Provide Fragrance-Free Education” below. New suggestions included four ideas on how to educate parents, develop public service announcements, and incorporate the fragrance-free message into online health & physical education courses.

Table 1 (Revised 12/10/07)

Opportunities to Incorporate Fragrance-Free Education into Existing Activities and Programs

Current Activity	Format	Frequency	Students	Staff	Parents
School handbooks	Print	Every year	Receive	Receive	
Fragrance statement(s) in District “Hotline” in the fall and as requested*	E-mail that provides link to full text	Weekly		Receive (others can sign up to receive)	
<i>Active with Asthma</i> Curriculum in Level I health includes fragrance info	Classroom instruction	Once	Receive if enrolled in Level I Health; asthma is 1-2 day class		
Healthy Learners Asthma Initiative Orientation for new health office includes fragrance info	Training	Once		Receive 3 hour orientation to asthma includes fragrances as trigger	
Licensed School Nurse & administration posts “fragrance statement” in school site communication as needed	Print or E-mail (school site decision)	As requested (based upon individual need)	Receive	Receive	Receive
Teaching opportunities	Incorporate fragrance-free message		Receive		

	into classroom discussions such as health and science classes				
--	---	--	--	--	--

* Attention all MPS staff:

- “Exposure to fragrances and scents can cause some of our staff and students to experience upper respiratory irritation, asthma, headaches and other symptoms. Sources of fragrance and scents include perfume, cologne, after-shave, hairsprays, body lotions and industrial products such as room fresheners. All staff are encouraged to use personal products that are fragrance-free. Fresh evergreens like pine, and other fresh flowers, while festive, can also cause some students and staff to experience allergy symptoms. Please be sensitive to the health needs of your co-workers and students. Thank you for your cooperation”
- “You are encouraged to avoid using scented products during the school day. There are a large number of students and staff in the district who have asthma and allergies. Scented personal products, such as perfume or cologne, or industrial products such as room fresheners, can trigger an asthma attack or other reactions”.

Table 2 (Revised 12/10/07)
Possible Opportunities to Provide Fragrance-Free Education

Possible Activity	Format	Frequency	Students	Staff	Parents
School signage about fragrance (locker room; bathroom; school entry)	Print Sticker Window cling	Post every year; more if needed	Receive	Receive	Receive
Fragrance-Free statement in student handbook (same as 1 st item in Table 1)	Print	Every year	Receive		
Fragrance Fact Sheets	Print Electronic	Every year	Receive	Receive	Receive
School assemblies	Verbal		Receive	Receive	
Student produced video	Web	Create video and update as needed	Receive	Receive	Receive
Public Service Announcements	Print Electronic		Receive	Receive	Receive

	Web				
Online student courses	Internet		Receive		
Send letter home with student	Paper				Receive
Automated phone message	Voice mail				Receive
Automated e-mail	Electronic				Receive
School Open House or other school site meetings	In person				Receive

Several workgroup members stated we need to convince people that use of fragrances and scented products can be a problem especially for sensitive individuals. A fragrance-free schools education campaign will require a multi-media approach. Table 2 was revised to include four suggestions on how to reach parents (send a letter home with students, automated phone message, automated e-mail, and notices at school open houses and other events). Other issues mentioned included reading level of written materials, translation of materials, and providing information on alternatives to scented products.

The workgroup agreed that Minneapolis public schools should continue the fragrance-free education activities listed in Table 1. Priorities for new activities included adding fragrance-free information to student handbooks, developing information to incorporate into online health courses, develop signage and fact sheets, and incorporate fragrance-free information into current methods of communicating with parents on other school-based issues.

Next Steps

Workgroup members agreed that a fragrance-free educational campaign must use a multi-media approach. Several communication methods must be used to educate students, staff and parents about fragrances and scented products. Members recommended that Minneapolis school district staff collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Health and possibly the Minnesota Department of Education to develop fragrance-free language that could be incorporated into a variety of educational materials and opportunities.

By December 21, 2007, workgroup members will be sent a draft copy of the legislation report for review and comment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.