

BOARD POLICY

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS

**(Enacted 01-30-2008)
(Amended 08-06-2014)
(Last Amended 11-05-2014)**

PREAMBLE

Whereas, the Board seeks to provide excellent educational opportunities to vocational school students;

Whereas, the Board seeks to ensure that these educational opportunities are provided under safe working conditions including adequate supervision;

Whereas, the Board seeks to ensure that all plumbing and gas fitting projects completed by students provide safe facilities for the members of the public who ultimately become the users of such facilities;

Whereas, the Board recently amended its policy for on-the-job training programs for vocational school students to generally allow these students to work on non-residential projects, which generally were not allowed under its old policy;

Whereas, prior to amending its policy, the Board held education and training sessions about the new policy and the majority of schools did not oppose the new policy: some schools testified that the Board-approved ratios in the new policy are necessary for the safety and maximum educational opportunities for students, and a smaller number of schools raised concerns about the student-to-instructor ratios related to public parks and public facility projects; and

Whereas, as a result, the Board amended its policy to reflect that schools could request a waiver of the ratios under certain limited circumstances;

Now, therefore, the Board, after further due consideration, adopts the following policy to govern on-the-job training programs for vocational school students:

POLICY

1. Upon receipt of a completed Vocational School Project Approval Application Form (available online), the Board will review each application on a case-by-case basis.
2. All projects must be overseen by a licensee of the Board, who holds a current Master Plumbers License, and who is also a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education licensed teacher employed by the vocational school.
3. The purpose of on-the-job training programs must be exclusively for the educational benefit of the students, not for the convenience of completing a project.

4. In determining whether to approve a project, the Board will consider, among other things, the following factors:
 - a. The quality of the educational experience the project will provide for the students;
 - b. The safety of the participating students;
 - c. The safety of the users of the gas and plumbing facilities that are to be installed by the students; and
 - d. The level of complexity of the project.
5. Students must have successfully completed at least tier one of the plumbing educational program, including the OSHA 10 requirement, prior to participating in an on-the-job training program.
6. The Board shall impose limitations on student-to-instructor ratios and requirements for related education based on the complexity of the projects to be performed, and the overall safety of the students and users as described below in paragraph 8, a through d.
7. Students must obtain at least one hour of structured education related to their work every day they are working on-the project.
8. Projects in one- or two-family homes or on the property of the vocational school are subject to the following provisions:
 - a. Board review and determination shall be based upon information provided in the Vocational School Project Approval Application Form.
 - b. The student-to-licensed plumber/gas-fitter instructor ratio may not be greater than eight to one.
9. Projects in public parks and in public facilities are subject to the following provisions:
 - a. The student-to-licensed plumber/gas-fitter instructor ratio may not be greater than six to one.
 - b. Students must have successfully completed at least 165 educational hours of the tiered plumbing educational program (tier 1 and half of tier 2).
 - c. A representative from the school (instructors are preferred, but not required) shall appear before the Board for each application submitted for review.

- d. The Board review and determination will be based upon the information provided in the Vocational School Project Approval Application Form as well as the information provided by the school representative.
10. Any other project not covered above is subject to the following provisions:
- a. The student-to-licensed plumber/gas-fitter instructor ratio may not be greater than four to one.
 - b. Students must have successfully completed at least 165 educational hours of the tiered plumbing educational program (tier 1 and half of tier 2).
 - c. A representative from the school (instructors are preferred, but not required) shall appear before the Board for each application submitted for review.
 - d. Board review and determination shall be based upon information provided in the Vocational School Project Approval Application Form as well as the information provided by the school representative.
11. If a school wishes to deviate from the policy for a specific project, the school shall make a written request, to the Board, detailing and documenting the unique hardship or extraordinary circumstance for the waiver. The Board reserves the right to waive provisions of this policy as it deems appropriate.
12. A copy of this policy shall be attached to the Vocational School Project Approval Application.

Authorizing statute: G. L. c 142 § 3A.