



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

INDOOR AIR QUALITY TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE

News & Events

- Thank you for making the [IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium](#) a successful and action-driven event. The Symposium, held December 4-6, 2008, in Washington, DC, provided cutting-edge science and key guidance to assist the 400-plus participants in leading the way to prevent and solve indoor air quality problems in schools across the nation. To view the presentations, [click here](#). Save the date for the 10th Annual Symposium: January 14-16, 2010!
- **Upcoming Webinar! The IAQ Tools for Schools Framework and Connector—Engaging Leaders for Enduring Program Success.** Participants will learn about: 1) The evolution of the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Framework and the **NEW** six technical solutions; and 2) How to utilize interactive communication resources of the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector to foster mutual assistance and support within the National *IAQ TfS* Network. Thursday, January 22, 2009, at 2:00pm ET. [Register today!](#)
- **National Radon Action Month (NRAM)** is right around the corner! If you or anyone in your school is considering conducting radon awareness activities in January, whether in the classroom as part of curricula or otherwise, consider sharing those events with others by completing EPA's NRAM [Activity Submittal Form](#). Help get the word out about radon!
- The U.S. EPA's *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* Program featured a poster at the **Greenbuild International Conference and Expo** held November 19-21 in Boston, MA. The poster, entitled "Greening Schools from Design to Operations," highlighted how *IAQ TfS* provides a framework for comprehensive green operations and maintenance, which can maximize the benefits of green designs after your occupants arrive. [Click here for more information.](#)

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Congresswoman McCarthy Attends the IAQ TfS Symposium

Representing New York's fourth congressional district, [Congresswoman McCarthy](#) attended the Awards Ceremony at the *IAQ TfS* Symposium on December 4, 2008, in Washington, DC. She presented the *IAQ TfS* 2008 National Model of Sustained Excellence Award to the Baldwin Union Free School District.



Pictured from left to right: **First row:** Larainne Koehler, EPA Region 2; Beth Craig, Deputy Asst. Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, EPA; Robin Phillips, Baldwin UFSD; Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy; Mary Jo O'Hagan, Teacher, Baldwin UFSD and Saverio Belfiore, President H2M Group. **Second row:** Frank Fiumano, Asst. Superintendent, Baldwin UFSD; Michael Sheehan, Director of Facilities, Baldwin UFSD; Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, EPA; Guy Page, H2M Group and Michael DeBonis, EPA Region 2.

"I would like to thank the EPA for making indoor air quality in schools a top priority. The work that the Baldwin School District has done to improve the air quality within their schools has not only helped to raise the overall health standards of their schools, it has created a better learning and working environment as well." - Congresswoman McCarthy

In addition to Baldwin, five other school districts and two individuals were honored for their efforts. [Click here](#) to learn more about the 2008 Award Winners.

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Convening Leaders to Discuss Healthy and High Performance Schools

This year's [Council of Educational Facility Planners International \(CEFPI\) Healthy Schools Summit](#) held on September 29th in San Diego, CA, helped move the discussion forward on creating healthy and productive learning environments. Held the day before the CEFPI Annual Conference in partnership with EPA's *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program*, the conference sought to elicit opinions and visions from leaders in various topics and issues. The wide-range of topics addressed included cost issues, lack of leadership and commitment, and status quo mentalities as barriers to success. Thankfully, participants like Robert Kobet, President of Sustainaissance International, offered insight on how to overcome these barriers. He noted "the trend of thinking of buildings just as being operational is shifting. People are becoming more aware of the environmental and social influence of buildings."

Mr. Kobet's thoughts exemplify what this year's Summit participants succeeded in achieving: molding operational, environmental, and social components into a new status quo mentality for schools. Throughout the *Summit*, the collective energy of the diverse group of participants—including facility planning directors, architects, industry, and educational representatives—allowed them to craft a common vision for healthy, high-performing schools. Through both collaborative and individual commitment, participants identified short- and long- term planning opportunities to further the progress towards universal adoption of healthy and high performance school principles.

Besides the broader goals discussed at the *Summit*, participants deliberated over what exactly constitutes a "healthy" school and what constitutes a "high-performance school." These terms have been used interchangeably for some time, and attendees connected both terms to economic, social, academic, and budgetary considerations. By naming these common concerns, participants began to develop strategies for addressing the challenges that have inhibited forward progress in the past. And it is forward progress that *Summit* organizers hope continues. To close the Summit, participants generated the actions, requests, and offers they would be willing to contribute to advancing this effort.

Given the quantity and quality of the participants' commitments, it is clear that the success of this event will encourage continued conversation and action on the best ways to help produce healthy and productive learning environments for our nation's children.

Interested in learning more about high performance schools? Register today for CEFPI's [High Performance School Symposium 2009](#): *Learning Styles in Healthy School Environments*.

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Tell Us What You Think

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ TFS* Update? Need more information or have a quick question? Send us an e-mail at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

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If you would like more information about any of the topics discussed in this Update or would like to subscribe to EPA's *IAQ TFS* Updates, please send an e-mail to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com. If you are subscribing, please include the following in the subject line: subscribe to EPA's *IAQ TFS* Updates.

The *IAQ TFS* Program is a comprehensive resource to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ TFS* Program at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.

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