



## Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

### INDOOR AIR QUALITY TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE

#### News & Events

- **IAQ TFS National Symposium:** December 4 – 6, 2008, Washington, DC. Register today at [www.iaqsymposium.com](http://www.iaqsymposium.com)!
- **IAQ TFS National Competitive Awards:** Apply today for EPA's [National Excellence](#) Award and [National Model of Sustained Excellence](#) Award. Winners will be featured at the IAQ TFS National Symposium in Washington, D.C.
- **Webinar:** [Join](#) the next Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT) Webinar on Thursday, July 10, 2008, from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm (EDT). EPA's [HealthySEAT](#) is a unique software tool to help school districts evaluate and manage their school facilities for key environmental, safety, and health issues. During the Webinar you will learn how to download, install, and customize checklists for your school. [Register today.](#)

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#### New IAQ Lesson Plans Available for Grades K-12

Through a cooperative agreement with the EPA, the National Education Association Health Information Network (NEA HIN) has created a series of [K-12 lesson plans](#) that supplement the U.S. EPA's *IAQ Tools for Schools* program and [Action Kit](#). All of the lesson plans are tied to standards and can be easily integrated with your school district's curriculum. Many of the lessons can be adapted to any grade level and can be used as independent activities or put together to build an IAQ unit.

[Discover](#) how you can promote awareness around indoor air quality (IAQ) and meet your curriculum standards at the same time by checking out these hands-on, interactive lesson plans.

"The IAQ Lesson Plans allow students to have an opportunity to learn about the indoor environment in a way that is meaningful, interactive, and purposeful. When used in connection with the *IAQ TFS* Program, the power to impact the entire school community is enormous!"

– *Miecha Galbraith, Teacher and Curriculum Consultant*

"Teaching high school students about indoor air quality has enlivened my math curricula."

– *Jay Freundlich, Math and Science Teacher, South Whidbey High School, Langley, Washington*

"I decided to do an IAQ project because the quality of our environment affects each of us. Little did I know how dramatically the indoor air can contribute to one's health. Now teachers are asking me to test their classrooms."

- Megan Sarver, Student, South Whidbey High School, Langley, Washington

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## Q&A with EPA

**Last Month's Answer:** In the last Update, EPA asked, "What was the most instrumental first step you took in getting your IAQ management plan off the ground, and how were you successful? Looking back, what is the one thing you wish you had done differently?"

"The IAQ program at Katy ISD was initiated as a result of a mold crisis at a school. Senior administration at Katy ISD decided that an IAQ program was needed to prevent an incident of this magnitude from ever occurring again. The critical first step was to designate a leader to implement the IAQ management program; Peggy Caruso was hired to lead the Environmental Department and implement the *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* Program. Although we wish we could have started the program under more positive circumstances, the program has helped the district proactively manage IAQ." - Katy Independent School District, Texas

**This Month's Question:** No matter what project you undertake, communication is always key. It can also be a difficult art to master, especially when communicating sensitive or complex information to a broad audience with diverse interests. Many school districts have mastered communication of their IAQ programs with parents, staff, administrators, and students, helping to galvanize their IAQ management programs into district priorities. This month, EPA asks you:

**How do you communicate with the diverse stakeholders in your district, and what are the top three "lessons learned" on your journey of communication?**

Send your answer to [IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com); it may be featured in the next edition of the *IAQ TFS* Update!

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## Featured Resources

- The quarterly *Indoor Air Quality in Northwest Schools* e-newsletter provides tips, articles and support for your IAQ management program. Although largely focused on the Northwest, the information within is applicable to any school in the nation. Read back issues at [www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/building/iaq\\_nl.cfm](http://www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/building/iaq_nl.cfm). To subscribe, send a blank e-mail message to: [subscribe-iaq@listserv.energy.wsu.edu](mailto:subscribe-iaq@listserv.energy.wsu.edu). When you reply to the confirmation e-mail, your subscription will be complete.
- According to research, an investment in IAQ shows dedication to, and is beneficial for, public health and quality education. However, given tight budgets,

schools must use creative funding mechanisms to initiate and maintain school programs. The U.S. Government offers thousands of grants every year; search [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) to discover potential financing mechanisms for your IAQ initiatives.

- During a flood cleanup, the indoor air quality in your home or school may appear to be the least of your problems. However, failure to remove contaminated materials and to reduce moisture and humidity can present serious long-term health risks long after the floodwaters have receded. [Learn how](#) to clean up after a flood to prevent indoor air problems.

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## Contact Us or Subscribe

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](mailto:IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com) with 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

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](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools).

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