



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

INDOOR AIR QUALITY TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE

News & Events

- [Register](#) for the **IAQ TFS** National Symposium: December 4 – 6, 2008, in Washington, DC! If you would like to attend the Symposium but have constrained resources, EPA's partner organizations offer a limited number of scholarships to their members. [Visit the Symposium Web page](#) to see if you are a member of one of these distinguished organizations, then contact them to learn more about obtaining a scholarship to the Symposium.
- Webinar resources now available: Download the [Presentation](#) with helpful links and the [Application Checklist](#) from the recent "[How to Write Your Winning IAQ TFS Award Application](#)" Webinar.
- **IAQ TFS** National Competitive Awards: Apply today for EPA's [National Excellence](#) Award and [National Model of Sustained Excellence](#) Award. Winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. held in conjunction with the exciting *IAQ TFS* National Symposium.
- **IAQ TFS** National Non-Competitive Awards: Get recognition today for your IAQ Management Program! EPA accepts applications year round for the [National Great Start Award](#) and [National Leadership Award](#).

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Success Story – Rutland City Public Schools, Vermont, National Leadership Award

Rutland City Public Schools made communication a keystone of its IAQ management program in order to gain and grow support, both in and out of the district, for its robust plans.

Internally, Rutland communicates regularly at monthly meetings of the management board to discuss progress and needs. Externally, it takes advantage of national observance months like National Healthy Schools Day to communicate with parents about their program and why IAQ is important and relevant to their children. Regular articles on the IAQ team are published in the Rutland Education Association monthly newsletter to members. In addition, members of the IAQ team give presentations at the various schools' parent/teacher organizations about IAQ and the *IAQ TfS* Program. Minutes of IAQ team meetings are e-mailed to all Rutland Education Association members as well as to the Superintendent, the School Board, and the head of maintenance.

"We're trying to get the word out in as many venues as possible."

– Ellen Green, President, Rutland Education Association

Using the [IAQ TfS Action Kit](#) and the [Communication Guide](#) as a foundation for your program can help you build a nationally recognized IAQ management program like Rutland's. Learn more about [Rutland City Public Schools](#), and discover the [Six Key Drivers](#) that can help develop a successful IAQ management program.

To read success profiles in your area, visit the [national map](#) of *IAQ TfS* award winners.

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Q&A with EPA

Last Month's Answer: In the last Update, EPA asked, "How do you communicate with the diverse stakeholders in your district, and what are the top three 'lessons learned' on your journey of communication?"

"We started our IAQ program with a diverse team in the first place: parents, School Board members, union representatives, the Superintendent, the Director of Business Services, and many others. We had to learn very quickly how to communicate with all of them efficiently and effectively. We used our common ground - improving the health of our buildings and thus, ourselves and our students - rather than our differences to address the different stakeholders. Our top three lessons learned have been: 1) be completely transparent in your communication; 2) include as many people as you can in the process; and 3) state the truth simply. Our IAQ program started in the midst of skepticism and distrust, but thanks in part to our communication efforts, we've earned the trust of our staff and community." - Dana Green, West Carrollton School District, Ohio

This Month's Question: Some school districts have administrations that required little convincing of the need and value for an IAQ management program. Unfortunately, not all school districts are so lucky, given the veritable laundry list of important priorities that compete for a proposed IAQ program's attention. This month, EPA asks you:

How did you earn buy-in from senior administrators in your school or district? What was the most important step you took or resource you used to help the administration realize the need and benefits of implementing an IAQ program?

Send your answer to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com; it may be featured in the next edition of the *IAQ TfS Update*!

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Featured Resources

- The [Envisioning Excellence](#) document presents the Framework for Effective School IAQ Programs: Six Key Drivers -- guidelines that detail the organizational approaches and practices that are fundamental to school IAQ program success -- and presents [profiles in excellence](#) to demonstrate how different school districts applied the Framework to create effective and enduring IAQ programs.
- View [IAQ TfS National Award winners](#) in your state! Then, [apply for an award](#) to be the next national leader placed on the map!
- EPA Regional offices are a surefire resource for all of your technical or programmatic IAQ questions. [Locate](#) your regional EPA representative.

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like to subscribe to EPA's *IAQ TFS* Updates, please send an e-mail to subscribe to EPA's *IAQ TFS* Updates, please send an e-mail to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

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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