

Resource Team Participating Agencies & Organizations:

- American Federation of Teachers –CT
- American Institute of Architecture—CT
- American Lung Association of Connecticut
- CT Association of Boards of Education
- CT Association of Local Health Directors
- CT Association of Public School Superintendents
- CT Association of School Business Officials
- CT School Building & Grounds Association
- CT Council for Occupational Safety & Health
- CT Department of Environmental Protection
- CT Department of Education
- CT Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health
- CT Department of Public Health
- CT Education Association
- CT Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO
- CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools
- CT School Nurses Association
- CT Interlocal Risk Management Agency
- CT Parent & Teacher Association
- Southeast CT Indoor Air Quality Coalition
- UCONN Health Center – Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Program
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
- U.S. Dept of Education, Office for Civil Rights
- Yale Occupational & Environmental Medicine Program

Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team
c/o
CT Department of Public Health
Environmental & Occupational Health
Assessment Program
P.O. Box 340308, MS #11CHA
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team

PROMOTING
EPA'S *TOOLS*
FOR SCHOOLS
TO IMPROVE
CONNECTICUT
SCHOOLS'
INDOOR
ENVIRONMENTS



Background: IAQ In Schools

There has been a growing concern regarding health problems linked to poor indoor air quality (IAQ) in buildings – including school facilities. EPA estimates that human exposure to air pollutants can be 2-5 times, and

occasionally more than 100 times, higher than outdoor levels. This is a particular concern because most people spend approximately 90% of their time indoors. IAQ problems can result from a variety of factors, including reduced ventilation to save energy, deferred maintenance, building materials and furnishings, and specific contaminants.



The U.S. Government Accounting Office reports that 50% of all US school buildings have at least one environmental problem which affects indoor air quality.

Failure to prevent IAQ problems in schools can :

- Increase chances for health problems for students, administration and staff
- Impact the learning environment, comfort and attendance
- Reduce productivity due to discomfort, sickness, or absenteeism
- Pose potential liability issues for schools.

What Is *Tools For Schools*?

The U.S. EPA has developed an innovative program – Indoor Air Quality *Tools For Schools* Action Kit – for schools to identify and address IAQ problems. The program is based on the following key principles:

- Many IAQ problems can be prevented by the school community
- IAQ problems can often be resolved using the skills of school staff
- The expenditures and effort to prevent most IAQ problems is a fraction of that required to solve problems once they develop.



***Tools For Schools* is a proactive, preventive strategy for addressing IAQ problems in schools.**

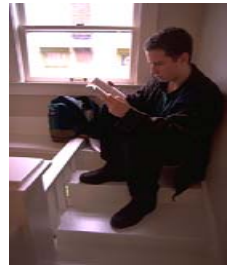
EPA's *Tools For Schools* is based on an action kit providing all the materials necessary to promote a low-cost, problem-solving team approach to improving IAQ. Once a committee of administrators, teachers, maintenance staff, parents, and others investigates and prioritizes indoor air hazards, short and long-term strategies are developed to solve IAQ problems. PBS's *This Old House* TV crew has produced a video "*Taking Action*" which spotlights a New England school's *Tools for Schools* team and its successes. The video is part of the kit.

EPA Web site:
www.epa.gov/iaq/schools

What Services Can the Resource Team Provide?

School systems have identified the need for technical assistance in order to implement EPA's *Tools For Schools*. The Resource Team includes IAQ specialists, industrial hygienists, epidemiologists, educators, trainers and others who can assist schools. For no cost, the Resource Team can:

- Provide the groundwork - presentations for school officials and other stakeholders (teachers, PTA, etc.) to explain how TFS can improve IAQ.
- Provide training for TFS committees to: identify problems, understand ventilation basics, conduct site walk-throughs, and prioritize IAQ solutions.
- Provide technical assistance.



The Resource Team can provide assistance for implementing *Tools For Schools*.

To Get Started - Contact The Resource Team

Kenny Foscue
CT Department of Public Health
(860) 509-7742 kenny.foscue@po.state.ct.us
Angie Testa
American Lung Association of Connecticut
(860) 289-5401 atesta@alact.org