



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ News and Events
- ▶ How to Secure Funding and Buy-in at Your School
- ▶ Lessons Learned: How Award-Winning and Faculty Districts Have Achieved Funding and Buy-in Success
- ▶ Have Your Questions Answered

NEWS AND EVENTS

- **Study to Evaluate Asthma Triggers in Children:** A new study — funded by EPA and conducted by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—[Robert Wood Johnson Medical School](#) — will examine how elevated levels of exposure to air pollutants, in addition to chronic psychological stress, may contribute to higher rates of asthma in urban communities.
- **Smoke-Free Homes May Reduce Childhood Ear Infections:** Researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Research Institute for a Tobacco Free Society have found a correlation between an increase in smoke-free homes in the United States and fewer cases of middle ear infections in children. To read this full report, visit the [Tobacco Control Journal](#).
- **Air Pollution Hurts Children's Lungs:** A study conducted by Taiwanese researchers finds that particle pollution in the air throughout the year measurably affects children's lung function. Read more about the "[Effects of Ambient Particulate Matter and Fungal Spores on Lung Function in Schoolchildren](#)."

HOW TO SECURE FUNDING AND BUY-IN AT YOUR SCHOOL

Securing buy-in and [funding](#) is an integral aspect of developing and sustaining an IAQ management program. With budgets for school projects decreasing across the country, it is important to ensure that protecting the health and safety of students, staff and faculty remain a priority. Securing buy-in and funding requires planning and coordination, as they are closely linked; often, securing buy-in from school district leadership can help garner funding for IAQ projects. Use the tips below to start planning your road to IAQ management success.

- **Start small.** In districts large or small, sweeping changes to an IAQ management program are usually not feasible. Start with a concern in the school or district and demonstrate how one change can improve the issue.

Did You Know...

Asthma accounts for nearly 13 million missed school days per year? Register for the 2011 [National Asthma Forum](#), and learn how to help manage asthma in your school and community.

Should we have our schools tested for mold? Can air fresheners trigger students' asthma?

Have these and other questions answered on the Schools IAQ Connector Email Discussion Forum. Join today by sending a blank email message to schools_iaq_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov. Then check your email inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

Access Past E-Newsletters Online

Can't find a past *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-newsletter in your email inbox? No problem! Wish you could read past editions? You can! Visit the [e-newsletter archive](#) to access printable versions (PDF) of all past editions on the *IAQ Tools for Schools* website.

- **Show your return on investment.** You might see the benefits of a small change soon after implementation. Tracking the impact of these changes is essential when “painting the picture” for district- or school-level administrators.
- **Speak the language of the person you’re trying to influence.** Finding the right way to present your message to various audiences is critical for securing buy-in. Does being “green” in a school translate to fewer absences due to [asthma](#)? Does having an IAQ management plan help the relationship between the teachers union and the school board? Make your case truthfully and in the best context for your audience.

The building blocks for effective IAQ management in schools are available in the [Framework for Effective School IAQ Management](#). Being aware of and beginning to implement the key drivers of success can lead to a successful, long-term program. Read our past Connector e-newsletter on [Financing IAQ Improvements](#).

LESSONS LEARNED: HOW AWARD-WINNING AND FACULTY DISTRICTS HAVE ACHIEVED FUNDING AND BUY-IN SUCCESS

- **Start small:** [IAQ Tools for Schools National Award-winning](#) Keller Independent School District didn’t aim to improve its overall IAQ management program when it switched to “greener” cleaning products. But because of the success they had in that one small change, they set their sights to better and improved IAQ management.
- **Show your return on investment:** Baltimore County Public Schools, which has won every [IAQ Tools for Schools National Award](#) available, tracks the costs of IAQ remediation. Within one year of implementing the [IAQ Tools for Schools Program](#), they reduced average expenditures on mold remediation activities from \$513,000 to \$150,000.
- **Speak the language of the person you’re trying to influence:** Newark Public Schools, the newest Faculty member of the [IAQ Tools for Schools Program](#), incorporated teachers into their IAQ management program by explaining how IAQ, health and [student performance](#) are linked. The teachers could see the direct benefit to their own work and had increased buy-in into the new IAQ management program being implemented in the district.

Nearly every award-winning school district started small and built upon their successes, communicating those successes clearly and effectively. If you are curious about how Award-winning and Faculty school districts have done this, ask a question on the Connector email discussion forum. Not a member? [Sign up today](#).

For more information and additional case stories, read [Envisioning Excellence: Lessons from Effective School Indoor Air Quality Programs](#) (PDF).

HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an [IAQ Tools for Schools Connector](#) e-newsletter? Need more information or have a quick question? Do you have suggestions for a webinar, an e-newsletter feature, or are you simply curious about an IAQ topic and would like more information? If so, send us an email at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Share YOUR news and events! Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next e-newsletter. Email your news to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

The [IAQ Tools for Schools 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 Tools for Schools Program](#) at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.