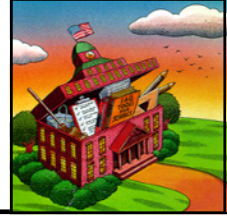


# Connecticut IAQ *Tools for Schools Success Stories*



Implementing **and sustaining** the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *IAQ Tools for Schools* (TfS) program has helped to address IAQ problems in over 950 schools in Connecticut.

Evidence from scientific literature supports the following statements:

- Managing your school environment can improve academic performance.
- Providing adequate outdoor air ventilation can improve student health and performance.
- Dampness and mold are associated with asthma and other respiratory illnesses that result in excess absences.

Student Health & Academic Performance: Using Research to Make a Case for Comprehensive IAQ Management in Schools: [http://epa.gov/iaq/schools/student\\_performance](http://epa.gov/iaq/schools/student_performance)

CT schools have been successful in demonstrating **improved health outcomes** and **cost savings** after implementing the TfS Program including:

- A decrease in IAQ complaints of 66% or greater in 9 out of 13 elementary schools. (Waterford)
- A reduction in IAQ complaints from 70 to 3 in two years. (Amity Region 5)
- An 11% percent (4,978) reduction in the number of visits to the school nurses. (North Haven)
- A decrease of 48% in the number of reported cases of respiratory-related illnesses. (North Haven)
- A decline of 21.2% (from 11,334 to 8,929) in asthma incidents in one year. (Hartford)
- Absenteeism cut by more than half (Hamden)
- Number of asthma-related health office visits decreased from 463 to 82 over 4 years. (Chester)
- Decreased insurance premiums. The CT Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), a CT insurance provider, reviewed 47 member school districts that have implemented TfS. Fifteen districts (32%), saw a decrease in IAQ claims frequency. The average decrease was 3.6 claims. The severity of claims decreased 87%, for a total savings of \$56,705.
- Increased efficiency through system changes, staff utilization, and new equipment.
- Decreased energy costs with well maintained buildings and equipment.

In addition, as a result of the proactive, team-based approach of TfS, school districts have experienced improved **public relations** as demonstrated by positive feedback from the teacher's unions, from positive media coverage, improved faculty and staff morale and in increased community trust.

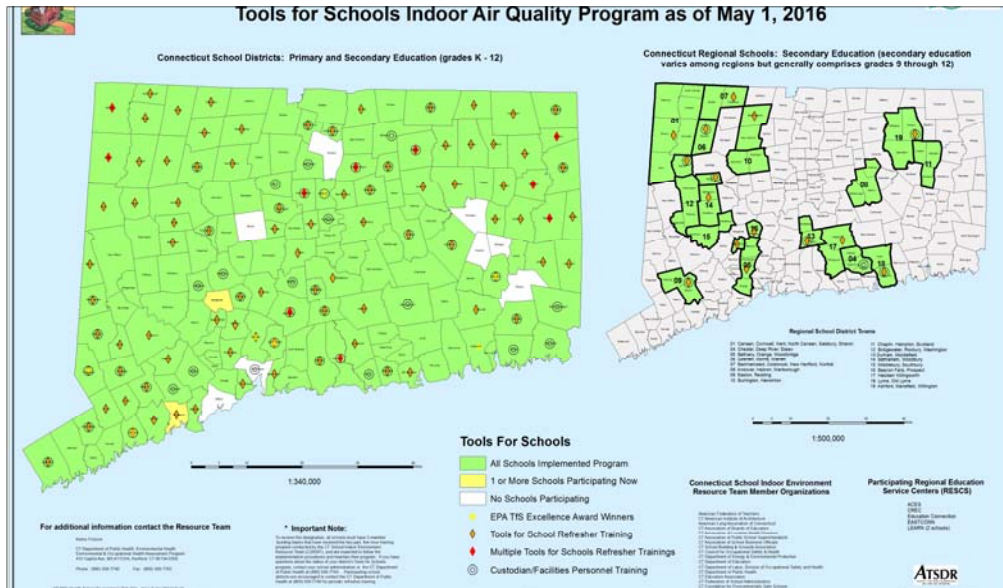
## Connecticut EPA Excellence Award Winning School Districts!

Waterford	Hamden	North Haven	Norwich	Westport
Hartford	Amity Region 5	Ridgefield	CT Technical High School System	

This national award was given to a few select schools who have displayed exemplary IAQ programs.

(Over)

# CT School Districts that have Implemented Tools for Schools



A larger version of this map can be viewed at: [www.ct.gov/dph/schools](http://www.ct.gov/dph/schools). Please note that the school districts in green (dark if in back & white) represent districts who have completed the two-part TfS training conducted by the Connecticut Schools Indoor Environment Resource Team. The status of implementation may differ. Also note that many school districts have completed refresher and advanced custodian trainings to sustain their program.

What some CT schools have done to make their TfS Program Successful:

- Developed a preventive maintenance program.
- Established district IAQ Coordinators
- Implemented new custodial protocols
- Developed new policies (no animals, no idling of vehicles)
- Began using green cleaning products.



## **Tools for Schools Really Works!**

School Nurse and TfS Coordinator:

*“I feel our school is cleaner and healthier than before Tools for Schools.”*

Thomaston District Coordinator:

*“Using data collected by TFS the building committee has installed a new HVAC system costing \$900,000. This system is directly related to the protocol established in the IAQ Tools For Schools Program.”*

For more information about the EPA IAQ *Tools for Schools* Program in Connecticut, contact Kenny Foscue at 860-509-7740 or [kenny.foscue@ct.gov](mailto:kenny.foscue@ct.gov).

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