

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Dear Superintendent of Schools:

The Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, and Public Health wish to stress to local schools and school districts the critical importance of effectively implementing Connecticut's school environmental health laws. The legislative intent of these laws is to protect Connecticut's school children and personnel from preventable exposure to health hazards such as radon, mold, toxic cleaning chemicals, pesticides and exhaust from idling vehicles. The CT Department of Public Health has a summary of Connecticut's school indoor environmental quality laws posted on its website at: [School IEQ law summary](#).

We recommend reviewing this summary in order to ensure compliance with these laws so that poor indoor air quality does not:

1. Increase health problems among students and staff
2. Adversely affect academic achievement, comfort and school attendance
3. Reduce productivity
4. Pose potential liability and public relations issues

Effort and expenditures to prevent most indoor air quality (IAQ) problems have proven to be cost-effective and improve student academic performance and staff productivity. Often, steps to comply with these laws involve low or no-cost measures, and improve staff morale and alleviate parental concerns. Our agencies have seen several areas which require your attention. First, every school district is required by law to adopt and implement an IAQ program that provides for ongoing maintenance and facility reviews necessary for the maintenance and improvement of the IAQ of its facilities (Connecticut General Statutes [Conn. Gen. Stat.] Sections 10-220 (a) and (d). Second, school districts adopt and implement a green cleaning products program for cleaning and maintaining school buildings and facilities (Conn. Gen. Stat. Sections 10-220 (a), 10-231g). We encourage school officials to review these laws annually.

In addition, CT law requires the following items to be posted on each school's and/or board of education's websites including:

- Green cleaning policy and information specified in CT Gen. Statutes Section Nos. 10-220 and 10-231 g.
- The School Facility Survey (ED050).
- Five year inspection reports for schools constructed, extended, renovated or replaced after January 1, 2003.



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Since 2000, the CT School Indoor Environment Resource Team (CSIERT) has assisted over 925 CT schools with implementing and sustaining the US EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (TfS) Program. Those CT schools and school districts who have consistently maintained their TfS program should be able to more easily comply with requirements for an IAQ program under Conn. General Stat. Sections 10-220 (a) and (d). For further information and assistance regarding the CT Tools for Schools program, contact the Department of Public Health at 860-509-7740 or go to www.ct.gov/dph/schools.

For your convenience, the following resources are available within our agencies:

For information about the School Green Cleaning Products Law, contact the CT Department of Public Health at 860-509-7740 or go to: www.ct.gov/dph/schools.

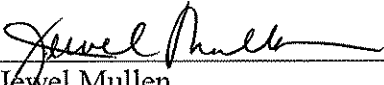
For information about the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing program, go to: <http://das.ct.gov/cr1.aspx?page=132> at the CT Department of Administrative Services.

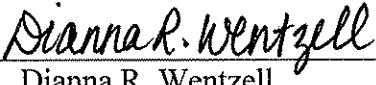
For information regarding Form EDO50 the School Facilities Survey and/or the High Performance School Law, contact the Office of School Facilities, Department of Administrative Services at (860) 713-6480 or go to: [School Facilities](#).

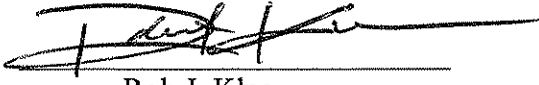
For information regarding vehicle idling laws, contact the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) at 860-424-4152 or go to: [Idling Is Fuelish](#). For information about pesticide management, call CT DEEP at 860-424-3369, or go to <http://www.ct.gov/deep/pesticides>.

We are committed to working with you and appreciate your efforts to provide safe and healthy school environments for Connecticut's students and staff. Please contact any of our agencies if we can provide further information and assistance.

Sincerely,


Jewel Mullen
Commissioner
CT Department of Public Health


Dianna R. Wentzell
Interim Commissioner
CT Department of Education


Rob J. Klee
Commissioner
Department of Energy &
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