Resource Team Participating Agencies & Organizations:

- American Federation of Teachers – CT
- American Institute of Architects—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
- School Facilities Unit, CT Department of Admin. Svcs
- CT Department of Education
- CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
- 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
- UCONN Health Center – Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Program
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
- Yale Occupational & Environmental Medicine Program
**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.

Failure to prevent IAQ problems in schools can:

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

**What Is Tools For Schools?**

The U.S. EPA has developed an innovative program – Indoor Air Quality Tools For Schools (TfS) 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.

**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 provides the following services to school districts:

- A 2 part implementation training program for new districts
- A “refresher” workshop for districts to revitalize their program.
- An “Advanced TfS for Custodians & Facilities” Workshop
- The CSIERT Web Site: a source of IAQ information and tips
- Technical assistance

For more information - Contact The Resource Team

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CSIERT Web Site: www.csiert.org
DPH Schools Site: www.ct.gov/dph/schools

EPA TfS Web sites:
www.epa.gov/iaq/schools
www.epa.gov/schools

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