How Students Can Play a Role in the *Tools for Schools* Program to Create a Healthy School Environment

A healthy school indoor environment should be everyone’s responsibility, including students. *Tools for Schools* (TfS) can offer students a chance to be involved as team members and as STEM learning opportunities. Students can also bring home ideas on how to make their homes healthy. Here are some suggestions.

**High School**
- As a TfS team member
- Liaison to student government
- Write articles for the school newspaper/newsletter
- Present program to school community – assembly, PTA
- Involvement in environmental club, environmental science classes
- Develop and maintain TfS webpage for school/district
- Develop a database to compile TfS data and track corrective actions through clubs such as math or computer
- Participate in presentation to the Board of Education
- Collect data at home using the Healthy Homes checklist; compile results, make list of top problems
- Develop science experiments related to IEQ; science fair exhibit
- Go on school walkthrough; make suggestions for improvements students can make.
- Calculate energy savings from replacing incandescent bulbs with CFLs

**Middle School**
- As a TfS team member
- Compile data and map problems identified through math and computer groups
- Educate classmates in science or health classes about improving the indoor environment
- Write letters to the school board about IEQ in the school
- Do Healthy Homes checklist at home; make a list of what could be changed to improve IEQ in the home
- Earth Day Fair
- In-school field trip (walkthrough)
- Form an energy patrol to monitor energy saving activities

**Elementary School**
- Chart room temperatures
- Make posters to educate classmates about IEQ and how they can help improve the environment.
- Write letters to parents about the importance of good indoor environment in the school and home
- Make signs to remind people to turn off the lights when leaving the room

**Notes:**

- **Science**
  - Ecology
    - ✔ indoor environment,
    - ✔ pollution
  - Microbiology
    - ✔ mold

- **Technology**
  - ✔ Building science

- **Engineering**
  - ✔ ventilation systems,
  - ✔ building structure

- **Math and Computer**
  - ✔ developing spreadsheets,
  - ✔ charting temperature, CO2 and humidity levels

- **Other**
  - ✔ public speaking,
  - ✔ preparing presentation materials and reports.

**Resources:**

- Environmental Health Curricula
- STEM Education Coalition

Connecticut Department of Public Health
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