

American Lung Association Fact Sheet: EPA'S Easy-To-Use School Environmental Management Tools

HealthySEAT

This free, self-audit software is a unique tool that helps school districts evaluate their school facilities for key environmental, safety and health issues. The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (also called the Healthy Schools Tool) can be downloaded on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) web site (www.epa.gov/schools) at no cost to school districts, states and others to help them establish and implement fully integrated and comprehensive self-assessments of each of their school facilities.

HealthySEAT features:

- **database file** to help school districts to manage all aspects of a self-assessment program, including:
 - a customized checklist and detailed guidebook containing detailed information and links on each topic
 - pre- and post- assessment letters and recommendation packages
 - setting priorities for correcting problems found
 - tracking the status of every issue for every school
 - district-wide status reports
- **comprehensive sample checklist** that can be used “as is” to conduct self-assessments of school facilities, or which can be fully customized by states and/or school districts to reflect state and local requirements, policies, and priorities
- **fully integrated source of all EPA school programs**, which encourages states, districts, and schools to participate in voluntary EPA programs to achieve a healthy learning environment as well as providing an effective compliance assistance tool for regulatory requirements
- **information on health, safety and injury prevention programs** of several federal agencies (Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control/Division of Adolescent and School Health, Department of Education, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Department of Transportation)
- **support by an EPA web page** that issues updates and other useful information on a regular basis.

IAQ Tools for Schools

IAQ Tools for Schools is designed to give schools the information and skills they need to manage air quality in a low-cost, practical manner. It helps schools prevent potential problems and efficiently manage them should they occur.

Who uses it?

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Action Kit is designed to be used by current school staff—not a separate IAQ specialist with specific technical knowledge. Program training and implementation materials are available for the American Lung Association and other community organizations who work with schools. Staff training resources present IAQ background information, including scientific references, detailed training workshops, promotional guides, and sample documents.

What costs are involved?

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Action Kit is free for schools from the EPA. These free materials include hands-on materials schools will need to prevent and/or manage existing air quality problems. The kit includes easy-to-use checklists with a flexible, step-by-step guide; IAQ problem-solving wheel; facts on indoor air pollution sources, symptoms, and solutions; training videos; and sample documents.

How would schools benefit from this particular program?

IAQ Tools for Schools is based on proven, scientific methods for preventing, understanding and solving indoor air quality problems and can:

- save schools money by preventing IAQ problems from developing into expensive repairs
- help prevent bad publicity and tensions between schools, parents and the community
- decrease the potential for short- and long-term health problems for students and staff
- reduce student and teacher absenteeism and improve student learning environment

See the Resources section of this toolkit for ordering information about IAQ Tools for Schools and other IAQ program resources.