

Indoor Air Quality In Schools

All types of schools can have air quality problems. According to a report by the US Government Accounting Office, at least 50 percent of our nation's schools have problems related to environmental quality, including poor indoor air.

Indoor air pollution may cause eye, nose and throat irritation; may trigger allergies and asthma; and may even lead to long-term health problems. Poor indoor air quality may affect everyone, but children are especially vulnerable. Air quality in schools has become a public health problem—one that demands attention for the health and education of America's children.

The American Lung Association can give your school staff the tools to become part of the solution.

Clean air is critical to lung health, and the American Lung Association is continuing its leadership to help keep the air clean—indoors and out—for all Americans. Keeping school air clean through *Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools* is an American Lung Association priority throughout the country.

Air quality problems in schools contribute to an exploding health problem—asthma, which affects an estimated 5.3 million children under age 18

and is a leading cause of school absenteeism. Because many pollutants in schools can trigger asthma attacks, managing asthma in school must include managing indoor air quality.

“We have a responsibility to provide a clean, safe environment for our students, staff and community. Tools for Schools is an excellent, pro-active program to achieve that goal.”

—JOHN FITZSIMONS,
WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO (NJ)
SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

“Tools for Schools is a win-win situation for everybody. Good, adequate, clean and fresh air increases our children's learning potential and provides a great teaching environment, too.”

—KIM PHILLIPS, ENVIRONMENTAL
CHAIRMAN, TEXAS PTA

IAQ Tools for Schools Is The Key

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.

IAQ Tools for Schools

is based on proven, scientific methods for preventing, understanding and solving indoor air quality problems.

IAQ Tools for Schools helps schools prevent potential problems and efficiently manage them should they occur. Supported by American Lung Association expertise, *IAQ Tools for Schools* can:

- Save your school 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.



About The Kit

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Action Kit includes 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; indoor air quality problem-solving wheel; facts on indoor air pollution sources, symptoms, and solutions; training videos; and sample documents.

“Tools for Schools has been cost-effective for us. We have been able to solve all of our problems ourselves, without having to bring in outside sources.”

—MARY SCARPA, BUSINESS MANAGER AND
IAQ COORDINATOR FOR NORTH COUNTRY
UNION HIGH SCHOOL, NEWPORT, VT



What the American Lung Association Can Do

Through its offices nationwide, the American Lung Association is helping school facilities staff, administrators, teachers, parents and other community partners to understand the importance of indoor air quality to the health of their schools. Lung Association staff and volunteers can provide information and assistance for schools interested in managing their indoor environment with *IAQ Tools for Schools*.

In addition to *IAQ Tools for Schools*, the American Lung Association offers *Open Airways For Schools*, which teaches children to take control of their asthma. They learn how to identify their personal asthma triggers and minimize their exposure to them. Together, these two programs are working to make schools healthier throughout the country.