



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ **News and Events**
- ▶ **If You Don't Look, You Won't Know: The Importance of School Walkthroughs**
- ▶ **Going Green — IAQ Champion Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**
- ▶ **EPA Visits 2007 National Model of Sustained Excellence Award Winner and Faculty Program — The School Board of Broward County, FL**
- ▶ **Have Your Questions Answered!**

NEWS AND EVENTS

[Register for the 2011 IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium!](#) Join school teachers, administrators and nurses from across the country to share and learn best practices for implementing and sustaining school IAQ management programs. The Symposium will be held in Washington, D.C., Jan. 13–15, 2011. [Reserve your spot today!](#)

[Encourage Your Students to Participate in the National Radon Poster Contest!](#)

The poster contest is a fun, creative and educational way to raise radon awareness. The top national winners will each receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Visit the [Poster Contest](#) website for more information.

[New Research on IAQ and Student Performance.](#) A study published by the American Journal of Public Health examines the link between school absenteeism and the adverse building conditions of schools in Upstate New York. [Read the article](#) and learn how visible mold, humidity and poor air ventilation can affect student health and performance.

[Celebrate Children's Health Month!](#) Read a blog article on EPA's Greenversations website entitled "[Children's Health Month – How are you Celebrating?](#)" to learn what actions you can take to promote children's health and wellness in the month of October.

IF YOU DON'T LOOK, YOU WON'T KNOW: THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL WALKTHROUGHS

Conducting a school walkthrough can provide vital information about the health and safety of a school and is a central component in establishing an effective IAQ management program for any school district. The walkthrough involves examining and noting observations about the school inside and out, taking key measurements and communicating with building occupants. By collecting basic data about the conditions inside a building, such as carbon dioxide levels, temperature, relative humidity and air flow, school officials can evaluate how effectively the school building is functioning. This information can then be used to identify IAQ challenges and support other efforts the school is taking to improve IAQ and health.

SHOULD WE HAVE OUR SCHOOLS TESTED FOR MOLD? CAN AIR FRESHENERS TRIGGER ASTHMA?

Have these and other questions answered on the Schools IAQ Connector E-mail Discussion Forum. Join the listserv today by sending a blank e-mail message to schools_iaq_connector_subscribe@lists.epa.gov. Then, check your e-mail inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

ACCESS PAST E-MAIL UPDATES ONLINE

Can't find a past *IAQ Tools for Schools* Update in your e-mail inbox? No problem! Wish you could read past editions? You can! Visit the Update archive to access printable versions (PDF) of all past editions on the IAQ Tools for Schools website.

If you are interested in taking a closer look at the conditions at your school, there are many resources available to help you and your IAQ management team learn how to conduct a valuable and effective school walkthrough:

- Join Dave Blake from Northwest Clean Air Agency and Rich Prill from Washington State University on a [virtual school walkthrough](#) — an informative video filled with diagrams and photos from past school walkthroughs. Dave and Rich explain how to identify, diagnose and solve common IAQ issues.
- Utilize IAQ management guides and checklists available in the [IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit](#). All of the checklists can be downloaded in either PDF or Word formats and can be tailored to fit your school's priorities and needs.
- Visit [Washington State University's Indoor Air Quality](#) website to read steps for implementing an IAQ assessment and program, as well as additional resources such as newsletters, handouts and research documents — including “[Why Measure Carbon Dioxide Inside Buildings?](#)”

Dave and Rich will also lead a more in-depth discussion about school walkthroughs at the 2011 *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium. The session will cover how to conduct a walkthrough, an overview of the basic equipment needed, as well as how to take, interpret and use measurements, respond to IAQ concerns and safely store chemicals. Participants will learn the importance of prioritizing IAQ issues and the power of effective communication when responding to reports and concerns. [Register for the Symposium](#), held Jan. 13–15, 2011 in Washington, D.C., to be a part of the discussion and learn why “looking” equals “knowing.”

When it comes to observing the condition of your school buildings, do you know what to look for? Join IAQ experts Richard Prill from Washington State University and David Blake from the Northwest Clean Air Agency on a virtual school walkthrough webinar — guiding you through a comprehensive and effective walkthrough to identify, diagnose and solve common IAQ issues.

The Virtual School Walkthrough: Identifying and Solving Common IAQ Problems

Thursday, December 9, 2010, at 1:00 PM ET

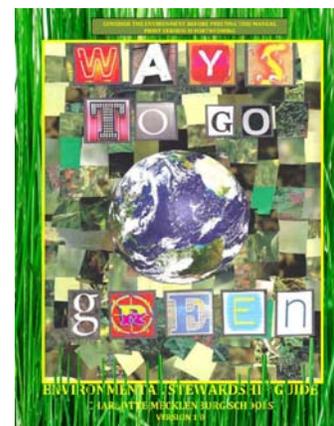
[Register Today!](#)

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-mail discussion forum makes it easy to **connect directly** with your peers to share information and communicate online. **Join today** by sending a blank e-mail message to schools_iaq_connector_subscribe@lists.epa.gov. Then, check your e-mail inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

GOING GREEN — IAQ CHAMPION CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

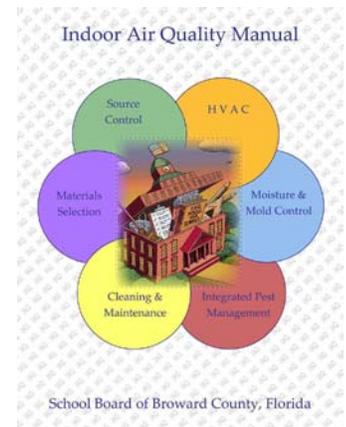
As a [National Model of Sustained Excellence](#) award winner, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) consistently demonstrates a commitment to the health and well-being of its students and staff. By continually evaluating and improving its school IAQ management program, the district institutionalized what it means to have a safe and healthy school environment and has promoted this concept throughout the entire community. But the district hasn't stopped there. Charged with the engagement of all stakeholders in environmental stewardship, which includes the indoor environment, CMS published a detailed [Environmental Stewardship Guide](#). This communications and how-to guide outlines the district's goals, strategic plan and resources for parents, teachers, staff and students. The guide is complete with fact sheets, surveys and resource links, such as EPA's [IAQ and Student Performance](#) website, that school districts from across the country can utilize in their efforts to “go green,” which includes creating healthy learning environments.



EPA VISITS 2007 NATIONAL MODEL OF SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER AND FACULTY PROGRAM — THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FL

The School Board of Broward County (Broward) implemented the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program in 2002, following a mold crisis that needed to be addressed. Broward utilized the tools and resources available in the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program as a way to focus on community involvement, communications and collaboration – with the goal of establishing a comprehensive IAQ management program. Through these efforts, Broward turned crisis into opportunity and developed a district-wide approach to addressing environmental issues. With continued effort and commitment, this approach has developed into a coordinated, award-winning national model of effective IAQ management.

During a recent site visit to Broward, EPA representatives witnessed firsthand the proactive, inclusive approach that the district takes by attending an IAQ Subcommittee meeting. Broward representatives from Facilities, Operations, Risk Management, the various labor unions and the community discussed the status of current IAQ issues, work conducted over the summer to prepare school buildings for the new school year and the status of identifying and training the next 20 schools that will participate in Broward's phased implementation approach. EPA also met with Broward's Superintendent of Schools, James Notter, who affirmed his commitment and passion for providing healthy learning environments for every student.



A key component of Broward's award-winning program is [Broward's IAQ Management Plan](#), which highlights the district's best practices and proven solutions. Based on the [Framework for Effective School IAQ Management](#), this plan has been tailored to fit Broward's individual challenges and needs. [Watch a video](#) to hear Jeff Moquin, Broward's Executive Director of Support Operations, explain how his district incorporated *IAQ Tools for Schools* resources into their IAQ management program.

HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ Tools for Schools* Update? Need more information or have a quick question? Do you have suggestions for a webinar, an Update feature, or are you simply curious about an IAQ topic and would like more information? If so, send us an e-mail at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Share YOUR news and events! Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next Update. E-mail your news to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program is a comprehensive resource to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.