

Tools for Schools/Indoor Air Quality Updates 2011-2012 School Year by JoAnn Duncan

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Did you know ... that all eight schools in the district have a Tools for Schools (TFS) Team made up of at least one administrator, teacher, school nurse, head custodian and parent? The TFS teams meet at least twice per year at each school (in the fall and spring) to have a meeting and do a walkthrough of the building to check for any potential Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) issues such as moisture incursion, odors, mold growth, cleanliness issues, evidence of pests, air flow (ventilation) issues, thermal comfort issues, etc. The team records the findings on a walkthrough spreadsheet and minutes are taken at each meeting. These documents, which are the running IAQ record for each building, are kept in a TFS binder at each school either in the nurse's office or administrator's office together with the TFS kit. If you have any IAQ concerns, please contact a team member at your school. There is a full team member list on the Westport District website at www.westport.k12.ct.us. Go to District - Tools for Schools Information.

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Did you know... that Connecticut has a team approach to overseeing the Tools for Schools (TFS) program in the state? The Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team (CSIERT) began in 1999 by meeting with representatives from the CT Department of Public Health, EPA New England, and the CT Council for Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA). They developed a comprehensive and coordinated statewide strategy to promote EPA's TFS program as a viable and proactive way to address IAQ problems in CT schools. The statewide consortium (CSIERT) now includes members from many additional agencies and organizations including: American Federation of Teachers –CT, American Lung Association (ALA), CT Association of Boards of Education, CT Dept of Education, CT Education Association (CEA), CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools, UCONN Health Center-Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, Yale Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, etc.

For more information about CSIERT, the full list of members and TFS in the State of CT please go to www.csiert.tfsiaq.com. This web site is a "one stop" source for: information and referrals relating to the TFS Program, TFS team members, school related environmental health issues, The CT IAQ Law, Sustaining Your TFS Program and it includes a forum page to share solutions for IAQ issues. CSIERT also provides useful documents to distribute to key players that help improve IAQ in our schools. Attached is one such document for teachers.

Attach the CSIERT Tips for Teachers to Keep Your Classroom Clean & Healthy