

# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Westport Public Schools Win EPA Indoor Air Quality Award

At their meeting Monday night, the Westport Board of Education celebrated the Excellence Award they won at the Environmental Protection Agency's recent Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality (TfS IAQ) National Symposium in Washington DC. Westport was one of 10 School Districts nationally to be honored for their outstanding efforts to prevent and solve indoor air quality problems, and was designated as a national IAQ role model for all schools.

Westport Public Schools formally implemented the TfS IAQ program in the fall of 2007 to systematize the management and remediation of mold and IAQ issues and to proactively avoid such problems in the future. EPA cited the Westport Schools in particular for their institutionalization of the program, "from attention to pest management and use of green cleaning products, to having IAQ incorporated into capital plans and the schools'

overall long-term goals". The selection panel also applauded the district's collection of CO<sub>2</sub> data.

Dr. Elliott Landon, Superintendent of Schools, noted that the Westport Public Schools were honored for being chosen among a very select few school systems throughout the United States for their proactive approach to protecting the indoor air environment for all children attending their schools. He stated that "without the strong support of the Board of Education, elected and appointed officials, PTA leadership and the school staff, our efforts to school ensure air quality excellence throughout the school system could never have been achieved."

Dr. Landon had particular praise for local citizen Gavin Anderson for spearheading the initial drive to develop protocols surrounding school system IAQ issues and for Nancy Harris, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Nadine Schwab, District Nursing Supervisor, whose relentless efforts to implement safe indoor air environments in all of Westport's schools continued unabated over the years preceding the granting of the TFS IAQ Award of Excellence by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.