

# Compiled Resources on Indoor Air Quality

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The quality of indoor air significantly impacts the learning environment for children and the productivity of teachers and other school personnel. Various agents contribute to air pollution, including dust from dirt, pollen, pet dander, and asbestos, which can cause discomfort to building occupants. Mold and mildew, thriving in humid areas or standing water, also degrade air quality. Radon, which emanates from granite, shale, and phosphate rocks, can infiltrate buildings through openings around floor drains, sump pumps, cracks in floors and walls, and foundations. Poorly designed or improperly maintained heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems also can negatively impact air quality.

Effective management of indoor air quality (IAQ) involves controlling pollution sources, implementing appropriate HVAC systems and maintenance practices, and carefully selecting the site and design of buildings to create a healthy environment. The Illinois State Board of Education, in consultation with the Illinois Department of Public Health, has compiled resources for elementary and secondary schools relating to indoor air quality in schools, including best practices for assessing and maintaining ventilation systems and information on any potential state or federal funding sources that may assist a school in identifying ventilation needs.

Indoor air quality is a component of indoor environmental quality. While these resources focus on IAQ as specified in [Public Act 103-736](#), school districts and other educational institutions are encouraged to consider indoor environmental quality and its impact on students and staff.

The following page contains several practical resources that school districts use to assess and maintain school buildings and ventilation systems to improve a building's air quality. Page 3 provides additional resources that districts can use to gain a more in-depth understanding of indoor air quality.

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a comprehensive suite of IAQ resources tailored for schools, providing a central hub for information and guidance. These resources offer tools, best practices, actionable steps, and on-demand webinars for school districts to assess, improve, and maintain healthy IAQ.

- [IAQ Tools for Schools Resources | U.S. EPA](#)
  - o [Action Kit | U.S. EPA](#)
    - The Action Kit shows schools how to carry out a practical plan to improve indoor air problems at little or no cost using straightforward activities and in-house staff.
  - o [Preventive Maintenance Guidance Documents | U.S. EPA](#)
    - These guidance documents provide straightforward steps to develop and implement a sustainable IAQ preventive maintenance plan.
- [Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools: On-Demand Webinars | U.S. EPA](#)

## **Illinois Department of Public Health**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers Illinois-specific guidance and resources. These guidelines provide specific criteria for acceptable IAQ as well as recommendations and approaches for how to investigate and achieve acceptable IAQ. IDPH also provides guidance recommends ventilation, filtration, and air cleaning strategies for reducing exposure to indoor air pollutants, viruses, and bacteria.

- [IDPH Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality](#)
- [Ventilation, Filtration, and Air Cleaning Guidance](#)

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The Centers for Disease Control and Safety (CDC) Safety Checklist provides a practical tool for school districts to evaluate their IAQ.

- [Indoor Air Quality -- Safety Checklist Program for Schools | NIOSH | CDC](#)

## **Funding Resources**

- [Financing Efficient and Healthy Retrofits | U.S. Department of Energy](#)
- [Indoor Air Quality Networking and Funding Opportunities | U.S. EPA](#)
- [Roadmap to Navigating Federal Funding for Public Buildings](#)
- [School Maintenance Project Grant](#)

## Additional Resources

The previous page provides a few resources that offer school districts practical guidance for assessing and maintaining ventilation systems. The resources listed below provide school districts with additional information related to indoor air quality.

### Illinois Department of Public Health

- [School Indoor Environmental Quality: Testing Should Not be the First Step](#)

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- [Creating Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools | U.S. EPA](#)
- [Videos about Indoor Air Quality in Schools | U.S. EPA](#)
- [Reference Guide for Indoor Air Quality in Schools](#)
- [Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings Guide | U.S. EPA](#)

### U.S. Department of Energy

- [Efficient and Healthy Schools | Department of Energy](#)
- [Home | Healthy Schools](#)

### U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [Ventilation in Schools and Childcare Programs | Ventilation | CDC](#)

### U.S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools

- [School IAQ Fact Sheets: Entire Series | U.S. Green Building Council](#)
- [School District Indoor Air Quality Management Plan Toolkit | U.S. Green Building Council](#)

### ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers)

- [Indoor Air Quality Guide](#)
- [Design Guidance for Education Facilities, Version 2.0](#)

### International WELL Building Institute

- [WELL Building Standard® | WELL Standard](#)