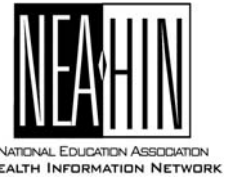




**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools National Symposium  
December 1-4\*, 2004 – Washington, DC**



**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

8:30-5:00 pm \*NEA HIN will conduct its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pre-Symposium Training to address IAQ issues from the union perspective.

*\* This day of training will be held at NEA headquarters and will only be open to NEA members and UniSev staff attending the Symposium. The agenda will be made available at a later date. The above times are subject to change.*

**Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*(Times and speakers are yet to be determined.)*

**Registration Opens**

**Opening Remarks**

**Opening Session**

**Kids Making a Difference: Making a Difference for Kids**

Need help with your IAQ program? Get the kids involved! As much as kids are affected by IAQ problems in schools, they can also get involved and play a key role in IAQ management. Presenters will discuss various initiatives and activities for student participation, demonstrate school programs that involve students, and offer testimony on the benefits of student involvement with *IAQ TfS*.

**General Session**

**Perspectives on Children's Environmental Health Issues**

Protecting children from environmental risks is a national priority, and learning about children's environmental health is the first step to protecting them from risks at home, at school, and at play. Expert—health care and environmental professionals, children's advocates—will offer a wide range of perspectives on the issue of children's environmental health during this panel discussion.

**General Session**

**Creating Lasting Leadership**

Effective leadership is a key component to any successful IAQ program. Experts will present models of effective leadership to demonstrate how to recognize environmental leadership and develop leadership skills in yourself and in others. This session will equip participants with skills and techniques for successful risk communication, social marketing, and for increased participation and action in school IAQ programs.

**Lunch**

**IAQ Team Building**

This lunch is organized to allow IAQ teams from schools around the country to meet and discuss their plans to expand on or build a new IAQ program.

**Concurrent Plenary I**

*(Attendees will choose one.)*

**Understanding IAQ in Schools**

Indoor levels of air pollutants can be two to five times higher than outdoor levels. This is alarming, considering that 56 million people spend their days in U.S. elementary and secondary schools and that thousands of environmental pollutants are found indoors. This session will discuss the basics of IAQ, health effects, causes, and why IAQ management is of particular importance to schools. Presenters will also demonstrate the *IAQ TfS* Kit and discuss key aspects of IAQ management in schools.

### **Beyond the Basics: Proactive IAQ Management**

Proactive IAQ management enables schools to identify potential problems before they arise or before they become major issues. This session will offer participants essential techniques and tips for how to use the *IAQ TfS* Kit as a component of a more proactive and comprehensive IAQ management program. Presenters will discuss techniques that will help participants to implement the program and ensure sustainable IAQ practices.

### **Concurrent Plenary II**

*(Attendees will choose one.)*

#### **High Performance Schools: Building a Healthy Environment for Students**

This session will help school districts to embrace the concept of “High Performance” Schools in the planning of new schools or existing school renovations. Decisions made in the early planning stages will have a lasting impact on the health and performance of the school. Experts will discuss the competing components of “High Performance” Schools such as energy efficiency, IAQ, day-lighting, material selection and securing buy-in from superintendents and school boards.

#### **Communication: A Key to Successful IAQ Management**

Communicating effectively with school occupants (students, staff, and administrators), local and national media, the community, other school districts, activists, state/county/city personnel, and other stakeholders is an essential factor in the success of any IAQ program. This session will discuss the fundamentals of developing an effective communications plan at the school and district level, and will offer methods for proactive and reactive communications. Participants will learn how to both communicate successes and how to manage IAQ crises.

### **Awards Ceremony**

#### **Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*(Times and speakers are yet to be determined.)*

### **Breakfast Session**

#### **Network with *IAQ TfS* Mentors**

You are not alone! Many individuals, including past *IAQ TfS* Award winners and experts, have vast knowledge of the *IAQ TfS* Program and IAQ management practices in schools. EPA’s voluntary Mentor Network offers a venue for these individuals to share their experiences with others that are initiating or implementing IAQ programs. This breakfast session will provide a networking opportunity for everyone, regardless of your experience with IAQ. Members of the Mentor Network will be on hand to share their knowledge and experience.

### **IAQ and Performance**

IAQ is one of countless variables that can influence student performance and staff productivity. This session will review the latest information, facts, and studies on the effects of IAQ on concentration, human skills, absenteeism, test scores, and more. General considerations for measuring student performance and IAQ will also be discussed.

### **Opening Remarks**

### **Panel Discussion**

#### **The Right Stuff: Choosing and Maintaining School Flooring**

This panel will discuss the selection of flooring choices for a variety of school uses as well as the critical importance of maintenance, regardless of flooring type. Participants will learn what effective maintenance means for both carpet and hard flooring in order to not adversely affect your school’s IAQ.

### **Concurrent Break-out Sessions**

*(Attendees will choose four, ranking them 1-4, with 1 being their top choice. Each individual will have the opportunity to attend three of the four choices.)*

#### **Managing Pesky Pests in Schools**

Pests, such as cockroaches, ants, rodents, etc., can easily infest schools if no actions are taken to keep them out of the school building from the start. Integrated pest management (IPM) is a technique that incorporates effective and clean practices to maintain a healthy and pest-free facility with minimal use of harmful pesticides and other chemicals. This session will discuss what IPM is and how it fits into a comprehensive IAQ management program.

#### **Energy Efficiency and IAQ**

Energy efficiency and IAQ are directly linked, and both can have a positive effect on the physical construction and sustainability of school facilities. Presenters will describe the relationship between IAQ and energy efficiency and will offer information on EPA and other federal energy efficiency programs that benefit schools.

#### **Benefits of Effective Cleaning and Maintenance Practices for Healthy Schools**

Proactive and consistent maintenance practices are often the difference between healthy schools and those with significant IAQ problems. Strategic maintenance can also reduce operating costs and increase the longevity of school facilities and equipment. This session discusses strategies and techniques that custodians/maintenance workers and facility managers can implement to institutionalize good IAQ maintenance and "green" cleaning practices. It will also help strengthen the connection between facilities management and staff to ensure healthy and safe school facilities.

#### **Tomorrow's Buses for Today's Children: EPA's Clean School Bus Program**

EPA's "Clean School Bus USA" program aims to reduce children's exposure to harmful diesel exhaust from school buses. Diesel exhaust has been linked to asthma, respiratory illness, heart disease and even cancer. School districts have retrofitted their school buses with emission control devices, used cleaner fuels and replaced their oldest buses with new buses that have better emissions control. In addition, many school districts are implementing "No-Idling" programs, which lessen diesel exhaust exposure to children, drivers, and the community. These programs save school districts fuel and money, as well as protect the indoor air in school buildings from harmful exhaust. Presenters will discuss their clean school bus programs (how-to's, challenges, benefits and lessons learned) and the available technical and financial resources for successful program implementation.

#### **Radon in Schools: Health Risks and Solutions**

This session will offer an introduction to radon and discuss how radon affects the indoor environment in schools. Presenters will showcase existing school projects and discuss methods for addressing radon issues in schools. This session will also include a discussion of protocols for determining radon levels in schools as well as potential funding and program support.

#### **Resources/Funding**

This session will offer discussion on and describe the multitude of resources available through EPA and other organizations that address various aspects of school IAQ programs. Resources include funding sources, communications materials, training opportunities, curricula, and much more. Discussions will cover key resources, such as a new EPA directory of IAQ-related foundations grants available across the U.S.

#### **How to Use the IAQ TFS Kit Effectively**

This practical "how-to" session will take schools through the process of implementing IAQ TFS in a single school and throughout an entire district. Presenters will provide suggestions to participants on how to develop a model IAQ management plan. Participants will also get acquainted with and receive a copy of the IAQ TFS Kit.

### **Asthma-Friendly Schools**

Asthma affects 6.3 million children in the U.S., and accounts for more than 14 million missed school days each year. Since children spend a majority of their time in schools, it is important to reduce their exposure to environmental asthma triggers commonly found in school buildings. A health expert with the CDC's Division of Adolescent School Health (DASH) will discuss effective strategies to help create and maintain an "asthma-friendly school."

### **HVAC Systems for Healthy Schools**

This technical and practical discussion of school Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems will highlight the importance of proper design, commissioning, maintenance, and operations of school equipment in order to create a healthy environment for school occupants. An expert HVAC technician will discuss the relationship between a school's HVAC system and other IAQ principles (occupant's health, resources, maintenance) and how HVAC systems impact the overall IAQ of buildings.

### **Building Healthy Schools from the Ground Up**

If you are planning or building a new school facility, don't forget about IAQ. This session will help participants find the information and resources they need to design new school facilities and renovate existing facilities utilizing good IAQ practices. Though its focus is on IAQ, this session will also help participants understand how to integrate a number of key activities in school design, construction, renovation, and operations and maintenance.

### **Regional Lunch**

### **General Session**

#### **Strategies for Mold Prevention and Management**

Mold problems in schools can lead to health problems for school occupants, significant financial costs, and a loss of credibility within the community. Too often, resources to address mold are spent on unnecessary testing and poor management of mold remediation. Participants will learn the basics about mold, including various types of mold, myths, strategies for effective mitigation, and practical solutions for mold prevention and management. Participants will also learn how to proactively and positively address community concerns during a mold crisis.

**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*\*ATTENDANCE REQUIRED\*\*\*\*\***  
(Times and speakers are yet to be determined.)

### **Opening Remarks**

### **General Session**

#### **IAQ in Schools: Where the Buck Stops and Litigation Begins**

A frank and compelling discussion of potential liability and legal concerns related to IAQ and asthma in schools. Presenters will discuss powerful practices, tools, and resources that can help participants avoid costly situations and how to proactively pursue and manage legal action if a case does arise.

### **Closing Plenary**

*Speaker: Tracy Enger*