



Center for Environmental Health Program
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CMH SAFE & HEALTHY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Safe and Healthy School Partnership Program Goals:

- Provide “healthy” indoor environments that facilitate productive learning and teaching.
- Collaborate with district staff to evaluate district facilities utilizing CMH, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tools for Schools (TfS), and School District practices and methods.
- Assist in the implementation of a long-term, sustainable, indoor environmental health programs for School Districts in order to develop effective indoor environmental quality management programs that improve the health of all building occupants.
- Provide education and training about asthma and indoor environmental health to any families of children who attend your Schools.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The CMH Safe & Healthy School Partnership with Schools includes 6 specific areas of activity:

- 1) Comprehensive asthma management education and training for school staff and all families with students in your Schools. Staff training will include but not be limited to nurses, coaches, counselors, social workers, teachers, and other building staff. School Nurses are trained by the Safe & Healthy School Partnership team on evidence-based chronic-disease management. Training includes pre-test staff assessment of knowledge as well as post-test staff assessment of knowledge. Family asthma training will be administered through each school PTA/PTO and will be offered to any family that wants to participate. The asthma education program will include:
 - a) Intensive training for staff to deliver effective asthma care. (CEUs are available to staff)
This will be completed in four education modules.
 - b) Supervision of the implementation of the intervention. This will include no-less-than seventy (70) hours of contact time with the nurses in their work setting.
 - c) Provide resource materials. This will include resource manual as well as educational tools that have been developed by CMH.
 - d) Assist in the design and implementation of data collection tools.
 - e) Assist in preparation of reports on outcomes.
 - f) Assist in the development of a health symptom monitoring and tracking process.
 - i) Health questionnaires distributed quarterly to teachers and staff via e-mail, used to monitor and track health symptoms of occupants
 - ii) Clinic visits will be monitored to determine if clinic visits have been reduced (especially asthma-related clinic visits)
 - iii) Calculate reductions in student absences in school district.
- 2) Implementation of a comprehensive indoor environmental quality management program that integrates the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality

Program with the extensive experience and analytical capability of our Environmental Health Program. The Safe & Healthy School Partnership program includes:

- a) Assisting in the establishment of a District IEQ Team and individual Building IEQ Teams.
 - b) A copy of the CMH Safe & Healthy School Partnership Resource Manual.
 - c) Training for staff at both the district and building level as they develop and implement the Schools IEQ Program.
 - d) Partner with the district teams to conduct IEQ visual assessments of each building in the district. This will include:
 - i) A scored visual assessment and report: Similar to and developed from EPA's *Tools for Schools* program, the CMH Safe & Healthy School Assessment Tool has the capability of scoring conditions visually observed in the classrooms along with photos to document issues and concerns. This report allows staff to view scored results for each of their individual locations throughout an entire building, allowing them to see how usage and/or occupancy affects the classroom, and ultimately what changes they can make to improve IEQ in their classroom
 - ii) A scored quantitative assessment and report: Safe & Healthy School report not only includes a variety of quantitative results (temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide, ventilation rates and air exchanges, TVOCs, combustion gases, particle counts, and in some cases fungal air analysis), but these results are scored.
 - e) A detailed assessment summary report of all classroom and building issues including scored summaries and supported by photographs of each indoor space.
 - f) A building specific outline of recommendations and interventions with the goal of improving indoor environmental health and air quality. This outline will facilitate discussion of building-specific issues for the Building IEQ team, and helps the team determine how to implement interventions. It also provides guidance for using best environmental health management practices to ensure the safest, healthiest learning environments possible.
 - g) A Follow-up assessments and report. After interventions have been implemented, the CMH Safe & Healthy School Assessment Team will return and work with staff to assess all low scoring areas of any building and 20% of all "healthy" locations will be sampled during the follow-up assessment. This will provide the district with confirmation that the "healthy" rooms are remaining healthy (no deterioration of conditions)
- 3) On-call environmental health consulting services
- a) Provides district up to three environmental health assessments for emergency or as needed services and is included as part of the contract. These are level II assessments and include all measurement and laboratory analyses.

School District Responsibilities

This partnership does demand significant involvement by district personnel to achieve success. To help achieve a smooth and successful implementation, it is the responsibility of each partner district to perform the following activities:

- Assemble a district Safe & Healthy School Partnership team that includes representative of each group of staff (administrators, facilities, teachers, nurses, etc.).
- Assemble individual Safe & Healthy School teams for each building that includes the principal, the lead custodian, the nurse, and at least one teacher representative.

- Facilitate district Safe & Healthy School policy review.
- Provide designated time and space for district and building specific Health and Safe & Healthy School Partnership training, assessments, and meetings.
- Allow staff to participate in all phases of Safe & Healthy School Partnership implementation.

SAFE & HEALTHY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

Program pays for itself

- Missouri School Districts receives approximately \$500,000 from the state for every 1% increase or improvement in attendance.
- For every 0.1% increase in attendance, the district receives an additional \$50,000 in state funding (\$50,000 is equivalent to one year of contract fees out of the three year cycle).
- Reduced clinic visits mean more time for students to focus on academics and classroom activities (improved test scores).

Monitoring and tracking health symptoms

- Health questionnaires distributed quarterly to teachers and staff via e-mail, used to monitor and track health symptoms of occupants
- Clinic visits will be monitored to determine if clinic visits have been reduced (especially asthma-related clinic visits)
- Calculate reductions in student absences in school district

Sustainability (key component of success)

From participation in a variety of EPA Tools for Schools sponsored events, the common obstacle is sustainability. Outside involvement and guidance enables a more sustainable program, because CMH is generally always providing a helpful, little “push” toward Safe & Healthy School goals and objectives. It also minimizes dependence on staff (and their time) within district, and most staff would agree that adding this type of commitment and responsibility to their already busy schedules is extremely difficult, which is the main reason why sustainability is such a problem.

Experience of CMH staff

CMH Safe & Healthy School staff has over 14 years experience consulting, assessing, and advising school districts on variety of indoor environmental issues, and over 35 years of combined years of experience in environmental science and hygiene consulting and analytical services.