

SCHOOL IAQ MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW OF STATE LAWS

Environmental Law Institute

Part of the ELI Series

[Topics in School
Environmental Health:
Overview of State Laws](#)

Why is this Issue Important for School Environmental Health?

School districts are responsible for addressing a broad array of facility conditions that may affect indoor air quality. Given the potential impacts of poor IAQ on health, absenteeism, and district budgets, school districts can benefit greatly by institutionalizing a system for preventing and effectively addressing IAQ problems. One approach to putting such a system in place is the implementation of an IAQ Management Program – a set of policies and practices for addressing a wide range of IAQ issues.

The U.S. EPA's *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* guidance provides a framework for establishing a comprehensive IAQ Management Program that incorporates elements such as: establishing an IAQ team and IAQ coordinator; conducting school walk-throughs; developing a written IAQ Management Plan and related policies; and identifying, prioritizing and resolving problems. The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Framework for Effective School IAQ Management synthesizes the accumulated learning of model school districts around the country and is designed to promote the proven approaches and strategies for IAQ management that advance environmental health in schools. Comprised of programmatic Key Drivers and Technical Solutions, the Framework gives all schools — regardless of location, size, budget or condition — the opportunity to launch, reinvigorate and sustain an effective IAQ management program. The Minnesota Department of Health has developed a model comprehensive IAQ Management Plan that is adapted from the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance.

For more information from the U.S. EPA and the state of Minnesota, see <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/framework-effective-school-iaq-management> and <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/air/schools/index.html>.

What Types of State Policies are Included in this Overview?

This Overview includes state laws and regulations that explicitly address the adoption by a school or school district of an IAQ Management Program, though it does not necessarily include all such policies. Most of the laws and regulations described below use terms such as “IAQ Management Program,” “IAQ Program” or “IAQ Plan,” and many explicitly reference EPA's *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance. Some of the measures strictly *require* school districts to adopt an IAQ Management Program (for some or all schools, generally or as a condition of state aid), while others encourage or facilitate their adoption.

Though many states have laws that require school districts to develop some type of facility maintenance plan, this Overview does *not* include such laws or regulations unless they explicitly require that the plans

broadly address IAQ elements. Similarly, the Overview does not include state guidance, templates or other materials in the absence of a related state law or regulation addressing IAQ management.

States included in the summary chart below: **AL, CT, DC, MN, NH, NJ, NY, OR, RI, TN, TX, WA, WI**

SCHOOL IAQ MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS		
STATE & CITATION	SUMMARY OF LAW/REGULATION	LAW REQUIRES IAQ MANAGEMENT PROGRAM/PLAN?
ALABAMA 2007 Al. House Resolution No. 625	This Alabama legislative resolution urges the state education agency to adopt EPA's <i>IAQ Tools for Schools</i> guidance for use in all public schools. The Resolution also urges local school boards to use the EPA guidance to implement an IAQ inspection and evaluation program.	NO
CONNECTICUT Ct. Gen. Stat. § 10-220	Connecticut law requires local or regional boards of education to adopt and implement an IAQ program that "provides for ongoing maintenance and facility reviews necessary for the maintenance and improvement of the indoor air quality of its facilities." The law does not specify a template or model program but requires boards of education to report every five years to the state Commissioner of Construction Services on facility conditions and on actions taken to implement their IAQ program. State school construction regulations (Ct. Admin. Code 16a-38k-6) reiterate this requirement for schools built with state funding, stating that such schools must have an ongoing IAQ management plan, using EPA's Tools for Schools program.	YES
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA D.C. Code § 38-825.01	D.C. law establishes an environmental programs office in the D.C. Department of General Services that is charged with, among other things, promoting EPA's <i>IAQ Tools for Schools</i> guidance, in order to "reduce exposure to environmental factors that impact asthma among children and adults in public schools."	NO
MINNESOTA Mn. Stat. §§ 123B.595, 123B.57	Minnesota education law provides that in order to qualify for long-term facilities maintenance revenue, school districts must update annually and submit biennially a 10-year facility plan that includes provisions for implementing a health and safety program that complies with best practices for IAQ management. The law provides that revenue may be used for, among other things, HVAC upgrades, mold abatement, and PCB cleanup and disposal.	YES
NEW HAMPSHIRE N.H. Rev. Stat. § 200:11-a	New Hampshire education law requires school principals to conduct an annual IAQ investigation of all school buildings. Schools must use a checklist provided by the state Department of Education and must file the completed checklists with the Department, the school board, and the local health officer. The law also requires the Department to encourage public schools to implement EPA's <i>IAQ Tools for Schools</i> guidance and to ensure that every school has a copy of the EPA materials.	NO

<p>NEW JERSEY N.J. Stat. §§ 34:6A-1, et seq; N.J. Admin. Code § 12:100-13.3</p>	<p>This occupational safety and health law requires that every employer furnish a place of employment that is reasonably safe and healthful for employees and authorizes the state to adopt rules. The rules promulgated under the law establish safety and health standards for public workplaces, including schools, and include a broad set of requirements related to indoor air quality. Under the rules, public employers must develop a written plan describing how it will achieve compliance with these IAQ requirements. The plan must include the identity and responsibilities of a school-designated IAQ coordinator, a preventive maintenance schedule, a complaints process, record-keeping procedures, and plans for addressing microbial and other air contaminants, and for addressing IAQ during renovations.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>NEW YORK N.Y. Educ. Law §§ 409-d, 409-e; 8 N.Y. Code Rules & Regs. § 155.4</p>	<p>New York law requires the Commissioner of Education to establish, develop and monitor a comprehensive public school building safety program that includes a uniform inspection and monitoring system. Pursuant to regulations implementing the law, school districts must have in place a comprehensive maintenance plan that includes “maintenance procedures and guidelines which will contribute to acceptable indoor air quality.” The state Education Department has developed a template that school districts may use in fulfilling the requirement for a comprehensive maintenance plan. The template includes questions about whether the district and facility are implementing certain IAQ-related elements, including: EPA’s IAQ Tools for Schools guidance; HVAC operation and maintenance practices; reduction of hazardous chemicals; and measurements for CO, CO2, relative humidity, VOCs and radon.</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>OREGON Or. Stat. 332.331; Or. Admin. Rules 581-022-2223.</p>	<p>Oregon law and regulations require each school district, education service district, and public charter school to adopt, submit to the state, and annually review a Healthy and Safe Schools Plan that addresses environmental conditions at their facilities. The required plan must list a school contact for overseeing the plan and must describe how the schools will address a variety of IAQ requirements under other state laws, including: lead-based paint; lead in drinking water; asbestos; radon; integrated pest management; and CO alarms. The results of testing conducted under the plan must be made available to the public. The law requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to develop information sheets for districts and schools to inform staff, students, and parents about “substances that may present health concerns” if present in school facilities, and authorizes OHA to provide recommendations on evidence-based practices for the reduction of environmental conditions not listed in the law, including mold and diesel engine exhaust.</p> <p>The law also establishes a Healthy Schools Facility Fund for the purpose of providing financial assistance to schools and districts in “carrying out the adoption, administration and enforcement of plans...including but not limited to the conducting of testing and exposure reduction activities.” The state Department of Education is required to develop a model plan and provide related professional development opportunities to districts and schools. The Department’s model plan includes IAQ issues required in the law and regulations, as well as information about vehicle idling and EPA’s <i>IAQ Tools for Schools</i> guidance.</p>	<p>YES</p>

<p>RHODE ISLAND 200 R.I. Code Regs. § 20-05-4.1 et seq.</p>	<p>Rhode Island education regulations establish standards for the design and construction/renovation of schools when the total cost of the project exceeds \$500,000. Pursuant to the regulations, projects must comply with all requirements set forth in the most recent version of the Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools Protocol (Northeast-CHPS). Northeast-CHPS requires, among other things, implementation of EPA's <i>IAQ Tools for Schools</i> guidance or an equivalent indoor health & safety program in the renovated school. NE-CHPS also requires that the school designate a trained staff person as a point of contact for the <i>IAQ Tools for Schools</i> guidance or its equivalent.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>TENNESSEE Tn. Code § 49-2-121</p>	<p>Tennessee law encourages local education agencies to implement an IAQ inspection and evaluation program, such as EPA's <i>IAQ Tools for Schools</i> guidance, which may address ventilation, radon, relative humidity, separation of students and staff from construction, and reduced use of cleaning and maintenance products. In addition, the law requires that school districts and schools encourage the scheduling of maintenance, cleaning, repair and other projects at times when students and teachers will not be impacted by chemicals, fumes, vehicle exhaust, room fresheners, aerosol sprays, and other chemicals and particulate matter. The law also directed the state Department of Education to compile a statewide survey of IAQ in public schools by 2006.</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>TEXAS 19 Tx. Admin. Code § 61.1040</p>	<p>Texas education regulations establishing school construction standards require schools to “consider the use of designs, methods, and materials that will reduce the potential for indoor air quality problems;” school districts “may use” the state’s voluntary IAQ guidelines, EPA’s <i>IAQ Tools for Schools</i> guidance, or “other updated state approved guidelines or standards for indoor air quality in response to communicable disease related public health issues.”</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>WASHINGTON Eng. Subs. Sen. Bill 6244 (Chap. 6, Laws of 1994)</p>	<p>Washington legislation authorized \$70,000 for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to work with the Department of Health to develop best management practices for improving IAQ in schools. The resulting School IAQ Best Management Practices Manual discusses a wide range of IAQ practices, including the establishment by school districts of an IAQ Management Plan. The manual outlines the elements of a plan and the steps for developing and implementing a plan. The state’s Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools recommends that schools consult the state manual.</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>WISCONSIN Wi. Stat. § 118.075</p>	<p>Wisconsin law requires the state Department of Public Instruction to establish a model management plan and practices for maintaining indoor environmental quality in public and private schools. The law requires each public school district to develop a plan for maintaining IEQ in its schools within three months of issuance of the state model plan and to implement the plan within the following nine months. (A separate law – Wi. Stat. §119.23(7)(g) – extends the requirement to certain private schools.) The Department’s IEQ Management Plan template incorporates a variety of elements, including an IEQ coordinator, a communications plan, a complaint resolution process, maintenance and operations procedures, and IEQ policies.</p>	<p>YES</p>