

Indoor Air Quality Program (IAQ)

Here you will find guidance for the current approach to IAQ preventive maintenance that includes energy efficiency and helps to cut costs. As integrating IAQ management, preventative maintenance and energy efficiency helps ensure healthy, efficient learning environments and smooth building operations.

The objectives of this IAQ Management Plan are:

- To reduce the levels of indoor air pollutants through preventive measures such as routine maintenance activities, periodic building evaluations and inspections, and IAQ-specific policies.
- Provide and maintain adequate airflow by repairing and maintaining ventilation equipment, which will promote a comfortable and healthy learning and working environment.
- Respond to IAQ - related concerns and problems in a prompt and thorough manner, and effectively communicate the progress of investigations and their resolution to all interested parties.

The district understands a good preventative maintenance program includes routine and regular maintenance and repair, which keeps equipment and facilities performing reliably and as intended. It helps your equipment have a longer life span and saves schools from unexpected, costly repairs. Putting off or deferring system maintenance usually increases overall costs, unplanned repairs or more.

Indoor air quality is a critical component of providing a healthy and comfortable learning environment. Indoor air pollution may cause or contribute to short- and long-term health problems including asthma, respiratory tract infection and disease, allergic reactions, headaches, nasal congestion, eye and skin irritations, coughing, sneezing, fatigue, dizziness, and nausea. In addition, indoor air pollutants and extremes in temperature and humidity may cause discomfort, which can affect students' ability to concentrate and learn.

IAQ problems can hasten building deterioration, contribute to the closing of schools, create liability problems, and strain relationships among parents, teachers, school staff, unions, and the school administration.

Staff Responsibilities for Maintaining Good IAQ

All NHPS employees play an important role in maintaining and improving air quality since their behavior can affect the quality of the air present in school buildings. For example, placing objects on unit ventilators, adjusting room thermostats, or turning off unit ventilators can worsen the quality of air in a room. An educated employee is more likely to take steps to maintain good air quality. In addition, an employee with an understanding of IAQ is more likely to report IAQ concerns quickly and accurately.

Teachers should refrain from interfering with airflow from ventilators (e.g. do not stack books or other items on ventilators, cover vents with posters, or turn off the fan due to noise), remove clutter in their classrooms, properly dispose of hazardous waste, and enforce the school's various IAQ policies in their classrooms. Scented candles and air fresheners are not to be used in classrooms.

Administrators should communicate the school's activities to the school board, staff, students, and community. They also need to ensure that the school is implementing IAQ policies appropriately.

Building Managers must ensure that HVAC systems are operating properly and that buildings are maintained adequately and cleaned regularly.

Custodians need to follow all policies regarding cleaning chemicals, ensure that the school is regularly vacuumed and swept, clean drain pans, and empty trash cans. They should also look for signs of pest problems and inform the appropriate people of any issues.