



Healthy School Buildings Classroom Supplement

As you work towards greening your classroom by assessing the health of your school, you can use this classroom supplement to help you fill out your report card. This document can also guide your students in the certification process by providing opportunities for in-class activities, discussion, and data collection. This supplement is a resource for you and is NOT a required part of the program.

Explanations for Report Card Questions

For some questions on the report card you'll find additional information to help guide you in your responses. |

General

6. Contact your school principal or facilities manager about school attendance. It is important that schools have a process and procedures to collect and aggregate data from the community about health concerns in the school building.

7. Contact your administrative staff. Absences may be an indication of the environmental health of the school building. Asthma, related to indoor air quality, is the leading cause of absenteeism for US students.

Pest and Animal Maintenance

9. Dander, fur, fluids, and feces from animals and insects are allergens for some people, particularly those with asthma. Proper cleaning of cages and removal of cages from classrooms is essential for children with allergies.

10. Contact your facilities or school grounds manager to find out what pest management procedures are in place. Natural pest control (IPM) minimizes the use of harmful pest control chemicals. Pest control chemicals can transfer to people's clothing and skin and have negative health effects. For more information about IPM, see the EPA's information: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/ipm.htm>

11. See Question 10 for more information.

Indoor Air Quality

14. Your school's administrative staff may be a good resource for this information. Indoor air quality plans are instrumental in maintaining healthy indoor environments. They provide purchasing policies for chemicals used in the school, guidelines for cleaning frequency and practices, a list of both preferred and banned chemicals, how to clean up spills, what materials to use for renovations, and other practices that help reduce toxins released in the indoor environment.

Toxics

20. Check with your facilities manager or appropriate person. A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provides information about proper storage of a substance, first aid, spill response, safe disposal, toxicity, flammability, and additional useful material. MSDSs are provided for most substances, including common household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, certain foods, drugs, and office and school supplies. Familiarity with MSDSs allows for precautions to be taken for potentially dangerous products; seemingly safe products may be found to contain unforeseen hazards.

21. Take a look at each school entrance. An effective walk-off mat at major entrances should be about 20 feet long. A majority of pollutants that enter schools are brought in from the outside on shoes. Providing walk-off mats helps to contain these pollutants by trapping debris in the mat for proper disposal.

22. To find out more about radon testing in the state of Washington, please check out <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/Radon>.

23. Contact the administrative staff person or district person in charge of purchasing. Many school supplies, soaps, and cleaners can contain toxic chemicals that are detrimental for both human and environmental health.

a. VOC = volatile organic compound

Ask your principal/ school administration to determine whether an environmentally preferred purchasing policy is in effect.

If there is a policy, check to see if it specifies non-VOC and urea-formaldehyde free products.

If no policy is in place, find out whether the products being used in your school contain VOCs and/or urea- formaldehyde.

b. Work with your school or district purchasing manager to determine what labels are on your cleaning materials and soaps. Do you see any seals or certification from third party organizations certifying that the product is non or low-toxic, biodegradable, and/or fragrance free?

Green Seal is an independent non-profit organization that promotes the manufacture and sale of environmentally responsible consumer products. Using products that comply with Green Seal standards ensures that the products are safe and minimize harm to the environment.



Air Intake Audit

Air Intakes	Yes	Some	No	Observations
Are ventilation units on?				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, is air flowing into the outdoor air intake? 				
Are outdoor air intakes free from blockage?				
Are bird or animal droppings near air intakes?				
Are sources of vehicle exhaust (parking spaces, loading docks, bus loading, etc.) near or upwind of air intakes?				
Does painting, roofing, or maintenance of exterior buildings take place near air intakes when the school is in session?				
Are any exhaust vents located within 10 feet of outdoor air intakes?				

Please feel free to use this table to collect data on your school's air quality with your students. You can use the information you gather to inform your Lasting Change. You may duplicate or modify this document to best fit the needs of your classroom.