How Students Can Play a Role in the *Tools for Schools* Program to Create a Healthy School Environment

A healthy school indoor environment should be everyone’s responsibility, including students. *Tools for Schools* (TfS) can offer students a chance to be involved as team members and as STEM learning opportunities. Students can also bring home ideas on how to make their homes healthy. Here are some suggestions.

### High School
- As a TfS team member
- Liaison to student government
- Write articles for the school newspaper/newsletter
- Present program to school community – assembly, PTA
- Involvement in environmental club, environmental science classes
- Develop and maintain TfS webpage for school/district
- Develop a database to compile TfS data and track corrective actions through clubs such as math or computer
- Participate in presentation to the Board of Education
- Collect data at home using the Healthy Homes checklist; compile results, make list of top problems
- Develop science experiments related to IEQ; science fair exhibit
- Go on school walkthrough; make suggestions for improvements students can make.
- Calculate energy savings from replacing incandescent bulbs with CFLs

### Middle School
- As a TfS team member
- Compile data and map problems identified through math and computer groups
- Educate classmates in science or health classes about improving the indoor environment
- Write letters to the school board about IEQ in the school
- Do Healthy Homes checklist at home; make a list of what could be changed to improve IEQ in the home
- Earth Day Fair
- In-school field trip (walkthrough)
- Form an energy patrol to monitor energy saving activities

### Elementary School
- Chart room temperatures
- Make posters to educate classmates about IEQ and how they can help improve the environment.
- Write letters to parents about the importance of good indoor environment in the school and home
- Make signs to remind people to turn off the lights when leaving the room

### Students will learn:

**Science**
- Ecology
  - indoor environment,
  - pollution
- Microbiology
  - mold

**Technology**
- Building science

**Engineering**
- ventilation systems,
- building structure

**Math and Computer**
- developing spreadsheets,
- charting temperature, CO2 and humidity levels

**Other**
- public speaking,
- preparing presentation materials and reports.

### Resources:
- Environmental Health Curricula
- CT School Indoor Environment Resource Team
- STEM Education Coalition

Connecticut Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Section
860-509-7740    [www.ct.gov/dph/schools](http://www.ct.gov/dph/schools)