



HealthySEAT

Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool



Information for New Hampshire School Officials

October 2008

Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool Training Available for School District Facility Managers

The N.H. Department of Environmental Services is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help New Hampshire school district facility managers implement the EPA *Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool* (Healthy SEAT). This Healthy SEAT tool is a software package designed to help school districts identify, prioritize and manage their environmental responsibilities. It lets school district staff track environmental health and safety conditions by school, and generate customized checklists and reports. DES has customized this software specifically for use in New Hampshire and can provide districts with one-on-one training of the software.

For more information about HealthySEAT or to schedule a training, please contact the Indoor Air Quality Program at (603) 271-3911 or IAQ@des.nh.gov.

Improve the Health, Safety, and Performance of Students and Staff

Many schools contain hazards that may pose risks to children and staff. The guidance included in HealthySEAT can improve the health of students and staff by ensuring that all potential environmental and safety hazards in schools are being properly managed.

New Hampshire has almost 500 public school buildings serving over 200,000 children. Facility managers responsible for these buildings are often faced with numerous preventable health and safety issues. This no-cost comprehensive self-assessment tool is a valuable asset for assisting facility managers in assuring that all students and staff have a safe, healthy and productive learning environment.



Examples of school environmental hazards include:

- Chemical releases
- Pesticide exposures
- Flaking lead paint
- Mold
- Indoor air quality problems
- Damaged asbestos-containing building materials.
- Radon
- School bus idling
- Lead in water

What does HealthySEAT include?

- Computer-based HealthySEAT tool customized for New Hampshire.
- User's manual with step-by-step instructions for further customizing and using HealthySEAT.
- Tracking software to help districts manage all aspects of a district-wide assessment program. The status of facility conditions and corrective actions can be tracked school-by-school, and reports can be created for district use.
- Inspection checklists that can be customized to track specific hazards.
- Customized guidebook that provides additional guidance on each of the hazards the district has selected.

All aspects of the tool can easily be customized by school districts to reflect the programs and requirements specifically applicable to their schools. Districts choose which hazards to integrate into their own assessment programs and can modify all of the content as they see fit. The tool is designed so that districts can assess and track an unlimited number of facility conditions, including non-environmental issues from bathroom cleanliness to emergency response plans, if they so choose.

DES recommends that an assessment be conducted at least annually.



HealthySEAT is free to school districts and designed to be loaded and used on district computers. DES is customizing the tool specifically for use in New Hampshire and will provide a CD for school districts' use. There are no reporting requirements and **no obligations** to use the checklist provided.

The tracking software is compatible with Microsoft Access and is self-contained, so districts will not need to purchase new software. The installation can occur on any Windows-based computer, on network servers for multiple users at multiple locations, and controlled access is provided for security purposes. HealthySEAT is intended primarily as a tool for school districts to use to periodically evaluate their school facilities at a macro level to be sure that all of the essential elements of key programs are being properly managed school-by-school. Districts choose the frequency with which they conduct assessments and may conduct the assessments using district staff, school staff, contractors, or a combination, depending on their particular circumstances and available resources.

HealthySEAT is designed to manage information on multiple buildings. It is not a substitute for day-to-day vigilance and good practice to effectively manage environmental, health, and safety issues to protect children, staff and the environment.

Healthy School Environment Web Resources

Listed below are on-line resources to help facility managers, school administrators, architects, design engineers, school nurses, parents, teachers and staff address environmental health issues in schools. Visitors can browse resources by topic or by geographic area, or search all resources by entering specific keywords into the search box at the top of each page at www.epa.gov/schools/ or cfpub.epa.gov/schools/index.cfm.

Questions? Please go to www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/frequentquestions.htm.

New Hampshire's HealthySEAT Contact: Indoor Air Quality Program, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-3911 or e-mail IAQ@des.nh.gov.