



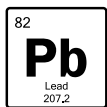
## Path to a model district School Environmental Health Checklist

This checklist outlines the core practices that define a “model” school district for environmental health. Based on findings from the Women for a Healthy Environment’s 2025 State of Environmental Health in PA Schools report and national best practices.



### Radon Testing & Mitigation

1. Develop radon-resistant construction for new school buildings
2. Test every 5 years; post results within 30 days
3. Mitigate if levels exceed 4.0 pCi/L



### Lead Paint & Dust

1. Inspect pre-1978 buildings annually
2. Use wet mopping, wet dusting/cleaning, and HEPA vacuuming
3. Use only EPA Lead Renovation, Repair & Painting (RRP)-certified contractors

### Lead in Drinking Water

1. Adopt a filter-first approach for all drinking water outlets and food preparation areas
2. Publish results online
3. Use NSF certified filters



### Student Wellness & Asthma Management

1. Stock asthma medication
2. Maintain a 1:750 nurse ratio (National Association of School Nurses)
3. Monitor outdoor air quality and require indoor recess on poor air quality days for all kids’ recess, physical education, and extracurricular activities
4. Facilities Renovations
5. Follow IAQ guidance above
6. Use radon-resistant construction and test for radon in occupied spaces
7. Identify and safely manage asbestos and lead during renovations, following EPA rules and regulations
8. Ensure construction and renovation projects follow LEED, National Green Building Standard, WELL Building Standard, or other green building guidelines for healthy, sustainable schools



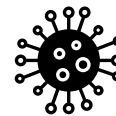
## Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

1. Form an IAQ team and assign an IAQ coordinator
2. Use EPA Tools for Schools checklists
3. Adopt an IAQ management plan and provide staff training
4. Use MERV-13 or higher filters for all recirculated air
5. Conduct ventilation testing, adjusting, and balancing for HVAC systems according to ASHRAE standards
6. Install IAQ sensors or monitors to track air quality data
7. Include isolation suites for health needs with dedicated exhaust and negative pressure



## Anti-idling

- Install proper signage according to state regulations
- Train transportation staff or contracted bus companies on anti-idling regulations
- Apply for funding to purchase EV buses when available
- PCBs (in school building materials, not water)
- Test when PCBs are suspected or before any renovations



## Mold Prevention & Remediation

1. Maintain humidity between 30–60%
2. Dry wet or damp materials within 24–48 hours to prevent mold growth
3. Establish and follow a mold remediation plan
4. Inspect for visible mold, musty odors, and signs of moisture in classrooms, bathrooms, and mechanical rooms; fix all leaks
5. Clean mold from hard surfaces with water and detergent, then dry completely; remove and replace moldy porous materials
6. Avoid installing carpet in areas with frequent moisture (e.g., near sinks, fountains, or on concrete floors prone to condensation)
7. Use EPA Tools for Schools checklists
8. Communicate with staff and occupants about mold prevention steps and findings as needed



## Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

1. Implement a written policy that emphasizes primary prevention strategies
2. Designate an IPM coordinator and train staff annually
3. Enforce PA parent notice registry



## Green Cleaning

1. Use third-party certified products
2. Adopt a green cleaning policy/program
3. Train custodial staff on safe cleaning products and practices



## Artificial Turf & Field Safety

1. Encourage installation of grass fields
2. Discourage artificial turf; if present, ensure proper maintenance to prevent injuries
3. Use outdoor heat guidance to ensure safety on turf fields when temperatures are high



## Community Engagement

1. Establish a district-level sustainability committee composed of school personnel, parents, and students
2. Host two public meetings annually

## Take action for healthier schools

Check out our website for resources to push for stronger policies, and help create healthier learning spaces for every student.

[Learn more](#)

<https://qrco.de/bgEl1G>

