

Awards Program

EPA's *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS)* Awards Program provides opportunities for schools and school districts to gain national recognition for improving indoor air quality (IAQ). The program's tiered approach rewards schools and school districts as they progress through implementing the *IAQ TFS* Kit. The Awards Program recognizes schools and school districts that take a leadership role. The program also heightens public awareness of IAQ issues and increases public support for children's health issues through IAQ improvements in our nation's schools.

AWARDS OVERVIEW

There are three types of *IAQ TFS* Awards: Great Start, Leadership, and Excellence.

Great Start Awards

Great Start Awards recognize schools that are in the beginning stages of implementing the *IAQ TFS* Program. To be eligible, schools or school districts must:

- Obtain and review the *IAQ TFS* Kit.
- Identify an IAQ Coordinator.
- Submit a "Letter of Intent" from a principal or superintendent demonstrating the school's or district's commitment to identifying and resolving IAQ problems.

EPA will provide eligible schools and districts with a "Commitment to School Health" certificate for each committed school and school district. In addition, schools will receive a welcome letter and information about how to access other *IAQ TFS* resources.

Leadership Awards

Leadership Awards are designated for schools and school districts that have shown substantial progress implementing the *IAQ TFS* Kit. To be eligible, schools and school districts must adhere to the Great Start Award criteria and complete the following activities:

- Conduct a walkthrough in every school in their district.
- Complete the *School Walkthrough Checklist* and the *Ventilation Checklist* found in the *IAQ TFS* Kit.
- Complete the *Teacher's Classroom, Building and Grounds Maintenance, and Renovation and Repairs Checklists*.
- Develop an IAQ Management Plan that identifies any IAQ problems in the school and prioritizes any needed repairs and/or upgrades.

EPA will award plaques to schools or school districts that have met these criteria. All Leadership Awardees will receive recognition on EPA's Web site and press kits to help them communicate their success. Award recipients may have the opportunity to share their experiences through a case study, which will then be posted on EPA's *IAQ TFS* Web site and as a published document.

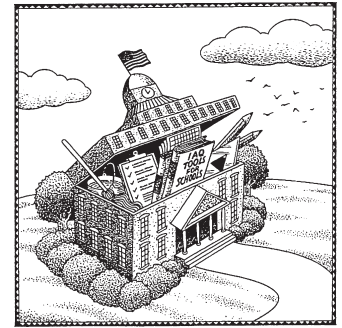
Excellence Awards

Candidates for Excellence Awards include schools and school districts that demonstrate exemplary IAQ programs and outstanding achievements—not only in fully implementing the *IAQ TFS* Program, but also in their communications and outreach efforts. Excellence Awards are given annually through a competitive process. Awards are presented at a special recognition ceremony each year. For more information about critical dates for application submission and selection, please check EPA's Web site.

Excellence Award recipients receive national recognition through an EPA press release, are featured on EPA's Web site, and receive a press kit to assist in communicating their achievements. Additionally, EPA will prepare case studies on selected award recipients.

NOTE: Schools and school districts do not need to receive a Great Start Award or a Leadership Award to be eligible for an Excellence Award.

Indoor Air Quality



Tools for Schools

How to Apply for EPA's IAQ TFS Awards Program

Evaluation criteria, applications, and specific mailing instructions are available on EPA's Web site at: www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.