



Healthy Schools Program

from

NH Partners for Healthy Schools

I. PROGRAM SUMMARY

New Hampshire Partners for Healthy Schools, a group of organizations committed to improving school environments and the management of asthma in NH schools, has established a program to help school districts improve indoor and outdoor school environments as well as the health of their students and staff. During the 2010-11 school year, the Healthy Schools Program intends to work with at least two school districts and provide **free** assessment, training, technical assistance and mentoring to address environmental and asthma management needs identified by participating schools. In addition, the NH Asthma Control Program will make **grants available** to support implementing healthy school improvement plans developed through the program. Benefits to participating schools districts and schools include no-cost school assessment and technical assistance, financial assistance in the form of a grant for related activities, improved school environments and student and staff health, and formal recognition of achievements.

To learn more about the program and Partnership please visit our website at:

<http://www.nhhealthyschoolenvironments.org/>

Healthy Schools partners include: NH Department of Education; NH Department of Environmental Services; NH Asthma Control Program; NH Council for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions; Breathe New Hampshire; NH Coalition of Occupational Safety & Health; Local Government Center; and NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Foods; and National Education Association-New Hampshire

II. REQUIREMENTS

Application and Selection:

We are accepting applications **and will continue to accept applications until** the program has utilized all its resources. The sooner you apply the greater your chances are of entering the program and receiving financial support to implement your healthy school improvement plans. Applications will be reviewed the second Wednesday of every month until the program has reached capacity. When selections are finalized, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describing responsibilities of the participating parties and actions to be accomplished will be developed between the school district, participating schools and the Healthy Schools Program.



Program Implementation:

The Healthy Schools Program will assign a mentor to participating school districts to help coordinate the assessment, action planning, and implementation phases of the program. Individual schools will establish healthy schools teams and work with the mentor to: 1) complete an assessment of their school environment and asthma management among students and staff, 2) identify needs and priorities, 3) develop an improvement and sustainability plan, and 4) implement and evaluate activities to address priorities. Suggested team members include but are not limited to principals, custodians, school nurses, teachers, school safety committee members, food service workers, and parents. Each school will address at least one environmental and one asthma management issue. The Healthy Schools Program offers a menu of interventions that school teams can use to address the needs they identify. There will be **no cost** to the school district to participate other than time spent by school staff members.



III. LETTER OF INTEREST (Maximum 4 pages plus attachments)

District: _____ Address: _____ SAU: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E--mail: _____

For each school in the district include: School Name, Address, Current Total Enrollment, Enrollment by Grade, Primary Contact Person with Title, Phone, Fax and Email.

Narrative:

1. Explain why the district needs assistance in terms of school environment and asthma management. While all schools in the district will be expected to participate, one or two schools will be provided with additional support as pilot or demonstration schools. Please identify the schools that have the most issues. What issue(s) have these and other schools in the district previously identified? What data are available to support the need for assistance? (Ex. information about indoor air quality, building maintenance, how many children and staff members have reported asthma or other chronic respiratory problems)
2. Describe ongoing and/or prior efforts to address the issue(s) cited and their success or lack of success.
3. Explain what your district would like to accomplish by participating in the Healthy Schools Program. Identify at least one potential goal and several objectives.
4. Identify the expected members of the Healthy Schools team for each school in the district by name and position.
5. Letters of Interest must be signed by the superintendent and all school principals.

Inquiries may be made to: Ed Murdough, NH Department of Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord NH 03301
Tel: 603-271-2037, E-mail: EMurdough@ed.state.nh.us

IV. TIMELINE

September 15, 2010	Program announcement sent to all schools and SAUs.
November 1, 2010	Accepting applications until the Healthy Schools Program has reached capacity. Please send A hard copy of your letter of interest to Ed Murdough at the New Hampshire Department of Education.
Second Wednesday of the month	All applications received by 4pm on the second Monday of the month will be reviewed that Wednesday. Applications received after the second Monday of the month will be reviewed on the second Wednesday of the following month.
Within one month after application is received	Offers to participate and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sent to selected schools.
One month after applicant receives an offer to participate	Signed Memorandum of Understanding due to Ed Murdough at Department of Education; mentors assigned to selected schools; Healthy Schools Programs begin at selected districts.

Menu of Potential Interventions

- **Tools for Schools**, the EPA assessment and problem-solving program, with technical assistance from NH Coalition of Occupational Safety and Health.
- **Healthy SEAT**, the EPA Schools Environmental Assessment Tool, with technical assistance from Department of Environmental Services Environmental Health Program.
- **Cleaning for Health**, green cleaning seminar and follow-up developed by INFORM, Inc. and the NH Partnership for High Performance Schools.
- **Clean Air Zones**, the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) anti-idling and school bus retrofit program.
- **Asthma 101: Medications, Devices, Education and Environment for School Nurses**, an asthma education module for school nurses developed by the NH Asthma Control Program.
- **Asthma Care For Kids**, an asthma education module for non-clinical school personnel including teachers and coaches, with technical assistance from Breathe New Hampshire.
- **Living Well with Asthma**, a module for families and other in the community with asthma.
- **Healthy Schools Tools**, tailored specifically for schools and their staff.
- **Integrated Pest Management**, best management practices for pest control to prevent unnecessary use of pesticides.

