

Appendix 4. Suggested additional reading materials, annotated

Mendell, M. J. and G. A. Heath (2003). "Do Indoor Environments in Schools Influence Student Performance? A Review of the Literature." Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, LBNL #51780.

This recent report critically reviews the scientific literature on relationships between indoor environments in schools and the performance or absenteeism of students. Because relatively little was available on this specific topic, the report was expanded to include the evidence on relationships between indoor environments in schools, offices, and laboratory settings and the performance, absenteeism and health of children and adults. This is apparently the most comprehensive such review available.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2001), "Tools for Schools." EPA 402-k-95-001.

This set of documents and checklists is intended as a practical guide for schools and school districts to prevent and solve indoor air quality (IAQ) problems using available staff and expertise. It recommends establishing an IAQ coordinator in each school or school district to administer and coordinate IAQ-related activities by an IAQ team. Based on the best available knowledge at the time and designed to be user friendly, it has been widely used.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. "Building Air Quality: A Guide for Building Owners and Managers" (1991)

This document, developed with the contributions of a large number of experts in building science and building practice, is a practical guide for building owners and managers on preventing indoor air quality problems, and solving them when they occur. Based on the best available knowledge at the time and designed to be user friendly, it has been widely used.

Mendell, M. J., W. J. Fisk, et al. (2002a). "Improving health of workers in indoor environments: Priority research needs for the National Occupational Research Agenda." American Journal of Public Health 92(9): 1-12.

This peer-reviewed article, produced by a multidisciplinary team, recommends an agenda for priority research to allow improvements in the healthfulness of U.S. work environments. The major recommended topics of research include building-related health effects (communicable respiratory infections, allergy and asthma, and nonspecific building-related symptoms); science and technology of indoor environments; and strategies to reduce barriers and increase incentives for health-protective building practices.

California Department of Health Services (CDHS). Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control. Lead Hazards in California's Public Elementary Schools

and Child Care Facilities (1998). Report to the California State Legislature, <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/childlead/schools/opening.htm>.

This document reports on the study performed as mandated by California's Lead-Safe Schools Protection Act which "required the California Department of Health Services (DHS) to conduct a study to determine the prevalence of lead and lead hazards in California's public elementary schools and childcare facilities, to report individual findings to participating schools, to develop environmental lead testing methods and standards, to make recommendations on the feasibility and necessity of conducting statewide lead testing in schools; to evaluate lead abatement technologies, and to work with the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop voluntary guidelines to minimize lead hazards in schools." This program, although designed for lead, an exposure with well-recognized adverse health and performance effects, would be a model for a survey of IEQ in schools.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Office of Water. "Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Non-Residential Buildings." (1994). EPA 812-8-94-002. April 1994, <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/consumer/leadinschools.html>.

This document is a manual that demonstrates how drinking water in schools and nonresidential buildings can be tested for lead and how contamination problems can be corrected if found. It also discusses the importance of developing an overall communication strategy and examples of public notice materials.

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