Indoor Air Quality
Tools for Schools

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
Environmental Education Outreach Program

www.nau.edu/eeop
Basic Information

- Developed by the EPA in 1995
- Tools for Schools program aims to reduce exposures to indoor environmental contaminants in schools using practical & low-cost measures
- Has been implemented in hundreds of schools
IAQ & Schools

- IAQ can be 2-5x higher than outdoor air quality
- Poor indoor air quality can have significant, harmful effects
- IAQ important to schools, children may be more susceptible to air pollutants
• Increase potential for short and long-term health problems
• Negatively impact student attendance, comfort, and performance
• Accelerate deterioration and reduce efficiency of school facilities & equipment
• Increase potential for school closings or relocation of occupants
Sources of IAQ pollutants

- Can originate within the building or be drawn in from outside
  - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC)
  - Building occupants
  - Pollutant pathways
IAQ & Building Occupants

- Effects are often non-specific symptoms including
  - Headache, fatigue, shortness of breath
  - Sinus congestion, cough, and sneezing
  - Eye, nose, throat, and skin irritation
  - Dizziness and nausea

Symptoms may also be caused by other factors

- Susceptible groups include people with asthma, allergies, respiratory disease, or suppressed immune systems
Tools for Schools Kit Action Kit

- How to Implement a District Wide Tools for Schools Program
- Checklists and Topic Backgrounders
- Managing Asthma in the School Environment
- The Framework for Effective School IAQ Management
- Managing Radon in Schools

Website: www.epa.gov/iaq/schools