



## Facilities – Indoor Air Quality Guidelines (IAQ)

### INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Hutto ISD embraces a reasonable approach to managing our school environment with respect to **Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)**. Our IAQ program approach is largely based on best practices and guidance from the Department of State Health Services.

What our students, staff, stakeholders, and the general public need to know about IAQ is air pollutants such as formaldehyde, organic vapors, common pesticides, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, mercury, radon, molds and dusts may pose health hazards. In fact, “scientific evidence indicates the air within homes and other buildings can be two to five times more polluted than the outdoor air, and in some cases 1,000 times more polluted. Today people are spending nearly 90% of their time indoors, a great increase as opposed to twenty years ago...resulting in a greater health risk due to exposure.”

**TEXAS VOLUNTARY INDOOR AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES** and other helpful information may be found at the following links:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/iaq/SchoolsGuide.shtm>

**Frequently Asked Questions related to IAQ:**

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/iaq/faqs.shtm>

While Indoor Air Quality is a comprehensive program that informs how we manage our HVAC systems; preventative maintenance; and Integrated Pest Management, there are other areas where individual staff members and stakeholders can pitch in and help. Therefore, please note that HUTTO ISD discourages and/or prohibits (to the extent the law will allow):

- Environmental Tobacco Smoke is prohibited in the law and includes “VAPES,” and Electronic Cigarettes.
- Pets are prohibited (except for enclosed fish tanks and enclosed tanks that may contain something like a small turtle). In addition to air borne concerns such as dander and other allergen related issues, handling certain animals (outside of a controlled science presentation) can cause other problems. Lizards are known to carry salmonella...and as a practical matter, **pets can bite**.
- Organic Gases such as household products including: paints, paint strippers, and other solvents; wood preservatives; aerosol sprays; cleansers and disinfectants; moth repellents and air fresheners; stored fuels and automotive products; hobby supplies; are discouraged and/or in some cases prohibited. Please remember candles are not allowed (fire hazard and causes allergies), as well as air fresheners, Scentsy, potpourri, aerosol sprays, etc.
- Essential Oils – These are growing in popularity with respect to the homeopathic industry, but some of these oils are found to be unsafe.
- Pesticides brought from home are strictly prohibited. Only licensed application of pest treatment is permitted under the direction and control of our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) coordinator and our IPM program.