

WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ELIO LONGO, JR., MBA
Chief Financial Officer

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Dear Teachers, Staff and Parents,

We are sending the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)/Tools for Schools (TFS) bullet list for your review. There are items that we consistently find to be an issue throughout the district that could affect Indoor Air Quality. We hope these reminders will allow us to continue to improve IAQ in the Westport Public Schools.

Please take the time to read these reminders regarding the classroom. There are items that are prohibited in the Westport Public Schools and should not be brought into the classrooms by teachers, staff or parents.

More details on IAQ can be found on the district website at www.westportps.org under District, Tools for Schools. The site contains all policies and procedures including the IAQ Control and Improvement Procedures, Standard Cleaning Procedures, Department of Public Health document on the Green Cleaning Law, etc. The WPS site also includes information and resources including the TFS Team Member List, the TFS Annual Calendar, newsletters and the Did You Know informational documents that have been written over the years covering a variety of pertinent topics related to IAQ. These policies, procedures and documents are also in the TFS binder at each school.

If you have any questions, please contact a TFS team member at your school. Each team consists of an administrator, school nurse, head custodian, teacher and parent.

We are looking forward to another productive year improving IAQ in the Westport Public Schools.

Regards,



Elio Longo
Chief Financial Officer

cc.J. Inserra

2025-2026

TFS/IAQ Reminders for all Westport Teachers and Staff

Additional details are in the IAQ Control and Improvement Procedures notice, dated February 10, 2024, located in the TFS binder at each school and on the district website under District, Indoor Air Quality/Tools for Schools, Procedures.

- Teachers are responsible to clean their own computers and keyboards. There is a special vacuum to use for this task and approved wipes for the keyboard and mouse.
- Classrooms are dust mopped/swept daily and wet mopped as needed by the custodians at night. Most cleaning is done by the night custodians after school hours. High touch points are cleaned daily.
- Special cleaning requests: If the teacher wants their desk, counters and shelves (all flat surfaces) cleaned/dusted, they need to remove all items, tell the custodian they want this area cleaned/dusted and then the night custodian will clean/dust the clutter free areas.
- No parent, guardian, teacher or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect. Products should have no fragrance or be as odorless as possible. All products are supplied by the district.
- Hand sanitizers are permitted. They can be carried by teachers, staff members and students if they are fragrance free, are in .5-3.0 ounce containers and stored in the student and teacher's personal belongings. The district provides one 12 oz. Purell hand sanitizer pump bottle for each classroom.
- Personal care products should be fragrance free or as odorless as possible. Teachers and staff are asked to minimize or refrain from the use of personal products that contain fragrances, such as perfumes and hand lotions. Products without fragrances are better for the environment in general and individuals with sensitivity in particular. Most fragrances come from chemicals rather than essential oils.
- No air deodorant products or air fresheners, including plug-ins and spray deodorizers are allowed in any school building or office.
- Disposable wipes will be given to all teachers and staff to use to clean their areas.
- All markers must be low odor, low VOC (volatile organic compounds) fragrance free or as odorless as possible.
- All food items that are staying in the building overnight must be stored in sealed hard plastic containers, sealed ceramic or glass containers. Plastic bags and paper bags are not proper overnight storage options for food as mice can eat through them.
- All unit ventilators and vents for air circulation shall be kept clear of items in all rooms (e.g. books, clothing, paper, furniture) to allow for optimum air flow and heating and cooling from the units that have all 3 functions. Paper products (books, cardboard, art projects, etc.) should not be stored near the grills of the unit ventilator nor be in the air flow path of the unit. This can lead to condensation on the paper and mold growth.
- Keep boxes, cardboard, paper away from computer towers. Do not block air flow.
- No cardboard or paper products should be stored in bathrooms or under sinks near pipes. These porous materials can grow mold when wet or damp.
- No upholstered furniture or pillows (from someone's home or tag sale) are allowed in the schools. They must be new and delivered from the store to be permitted.
- No area rugs or carpet squares (new or used) are allowed in the schools except for the area rugs provided by the district.
- Keep windows closed when there is ducted ventilation or unit ventilators in order to keep the system balanced. Mechanical ventilation brings in more fresh air (at a certain rate) than opening a window and the air is filtered.
- Stuffed animals are not allowed in the Westport Public Schools with the exception of one stuffed animal per classroom in elementary grades for instructional purposes.
- It is best not to have plants in the schools but if present, they must be cared for properly in ceramic or plastic pots and watered away from porous materials (paper, books). Avoid spills, clean the leaves, remove dead leaves and monitor for mold and fungus growth.