

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Task force to make recommendations for indoor environmental quality in schools

MADISON — The task force charged with making recommendations for indoor environmental quality in the state's schools began its work at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Madison.

Appointed by State Superintendent Tony Evers based on membership designated in state law, the Indoor Environmental Quality in Schools Task Force is made up of representatives from schools, government, and professional organizations. The 17-member task force will make recommendations to the Department of Public Instruction for its development of a model management plan to address both the long-term and short-term health and safety of students and school staff members.

“The quality of the indoor environment in our schools contributes to the success of our students and the effectiveness of our teachers,” Evers said. “The members of this task force will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the development of these important health and safety recommendations.”

Established by 2009 Wisconsin Act 96, the task force is expected to meet about five times between March and the end of the year and will appoint a chair or co-chairs at its first meeting. The task force will make its recommendations to the appropriate standing committee of the Legislature and the governor. Then, the DPI will use the group's recommendations to develop a model management plan and practices for maintaining indoor environmental quality in public and private schools. The task force will dissolve after the DPI issues its model management plan.

Task force recommendations will include indoor environmental quality training requirements, model specifications for the design and construction of school facilities and for additions and structural alterations to school facilities, and recommended educational materials relating to indoor environmental quality in schools.

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NOTES: A list of appointees to the Indoor Environmental Quality in Schools Task Force follows. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_30.pdf.

Indoor Environmental Quality in Schools Task Force

James Beckman, Director of Operations
Glendale River Hills and Mapledale-Indian Hills School Districts

Mary Bell, President (or designee)
Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC)

Marla Blom, School Nursing Supervisor
West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

Edward Butzen, Manager of Custodial Services and Sites
Green Bay Area School District

Kim Dale Hassell, American Institute of Architects
Plunkett Raysich Architects LLP, Milwaukee

Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities
Kenosha Unified School District

Rich Johnston, American Industrial Hygiene Association
Director, Health, Safety and Wellness Services

Manuel Juarez Jr. of Orfordville, Occupational Safety Inspector
Wisconsin Department of Commerce

Elizabeth Kane, Assistant Director, School Management Services
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Steve Klessig, School Board President
Brillion School District

Matt Kussow of Waterloo, Executive Director
Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS)

Dr. Jeffrey Lamont
Marshfield Clinic

Terry Longo of Milwaukee, Board of Directors
Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Rachel Schultz, Superintendent
Richland School District

Charles Warzecha, Director
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

NOTE: The task force also will include a professional engineer and another industrial hygienist, as yet not appointed.