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**Water Damage • Mold Contamination • Fire Damage • Biohazard - Residential • Commercial • Industrial • Medical • Government**

Dear Administrators and Teachers,

Schools are rightly invested in the health of its students and employees, but oftentimes curriculum maintains a priority while seemingly small things go unnoticed. One subject matter that most often isn't addressed is Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and mold.

Recent news reports about mold contaminations in public educational facilities across the county have cost districts hundreds of thousands of dollars or more in lawsuit losses, legal fees, repair costs, and losses stemming from student withdrawal and lost school days. Beyond the financial losses, it has added great stress and worry to teachers, parents, faculty and administrators over the healthiness and reputation of their schools.

Many people are unaware of the detrimental impact of poor Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) on a student's health and academic performance. Oftentimes, the struggle of students is associated with other popular factors like upbringing, societal status, or modern media distraction. This can be misguided as growing scientific evidence is demonstrating that the quality of an indoor environment can be extremely influential on student and teacher performance.

Taking steps to improve the classroom and facility environments has equated to healthier and more-focused students and teachers who demonstrate longer-term success in their work. The EPA has released evidence that shows that improved IAQ results in:

- Increase in average test scores
- Reduction in the number of student/teacher sick days
- Reduction in the duration of periods of student/teacher sickness
- Reduction in transmission of illness

Environmental Services is a company that has worked with many schools to bring awareness and improve indoor environmental conditions. While we work hard to educate everyone about these subjects, we can only do much and rely a great deal on the help of others to spread the word. While the decision to assess and improve your facilities may not be your decision to make, you have the power to bring these subjects to light by discussing these issues with colleagues, the PTA and the school board.

Feel free to contact me for any questions you may have regarding IAQ, air circulation and ventilation, mold contamination, water damage, or health concerns.

Sincerely,

Kelly Schernetsky  
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