

Healthy Environments Advance Learning

The Healthy Environments Advance Learning (HEAL) team at the Rhode Island Department of Education’s School Building Authority partners with schools to create healthier, safe, and supportive learning environments. HEAL is a student-centered initiative that strengthens Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ), reduces asthma triggers, and promotes overall well-being, with a focus on supporting students in the communities that need it most.

By connecting health and facilities expertise, HEAL provides schools with training, professional development, and technical assistance to **reduce absenteeism, support wellness, and improve academic outcomes**. Together, we are building local capacity to sustain these improvements over time so every student can learn, grow, and thrive in a healthy school environment.

We are pleased to welcome Cohort 2 (Burrillville, Coventry, and Glocester) into the HEAL community and build on the progress of Cohort 1 (Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket). We look forward to collaborating across both cohorts to share resources, exchange insights, and maximize our collective impact for students and educators across Rhode Island.

Connect

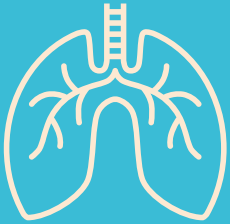


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HEAL THANKS OUR PARTNERS!



Rhode Island Asthma Control Program



Using EPA's Tools for Schools

The EPA's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) *Tools for Schools* program provides best practices to identify, correct, and prevent environmental health risks through a checklist-based walkthrough.

As active members of IEQ teams, school nurses help assess and improve conditions that directly affect health, comfort, and learning, including:

- Moisture and Mold Prevention
- Ventilation and Air Circulation
- Thermal Comfort

Partnering for Healthier Schools

The Healthy Environments Advance Learning (HEAL) initiative and the Rhode Island Asthma Control Program at the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) are collaborating to improve student health and success by connecting school wellness with facilities management. By integrating RIDOH's expertise in asthma and respiratory wellness, student well-being is prioritized at every step.

This partnership empowers school nurses to join or lead facilities walkthrough teams, using supports from the EPA's *Tools for Schools* program. Together with School Infrastructure Leaders, nurses help reduce asthma triggers, enhance Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ), and supporting healthier learning environments across Rhode Island schools.

Supporting School Nurses

HEAL Cohort 1 and 2 nurses will gain knowledge and support through three focus areas:

- **Training:** Step-by-step instruction on conducting walkthroughs using the EPA's *Tools for Schools* (TFS) checklist.
- **Professional Development:** Leadership skill-building and access to flexible, self-paced training resources.
- **Technical Assistance:** Ongoing guidance and mentorship from public health professionals.