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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Honors KUSD for Indoor Air Quality Program

Kenosha Unified School District No. 1 has been honored with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2009 *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ) Excellence Award* for its exemplary efforts to improve indoor air quality for students, teachers and staff.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools Excellence Award* recognizes districts throughout the country with exemplary indoor air quality programs. Kenosha Unified is being honored for demonstrating an exceptional commitment to good indoor air quality management in its schools. This year, only four other districts nationally will receive this prestigious award previously granted to 89 other school districts across America since the award's inception in 2000.

EPA created the *IAQ Tools for Schools Program* in response to studies drawing attention to the range of indoor air quality and related problems in school buildings, the alarming rise in asthma and allergies among schoolchildren and the knowledge that indoor air pollutants can bring about a variety of health effects, from respiratory problems to headaches and nausea. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, half of the nation's elementary and secondary school facilities have indoor air quality (IAQ) management programs, and 85 percent of those schools base their programs on the EPA's proven *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* approach.

"We began our indoor air quality program nine years ago and our goal was very simple: to provide a healthy indoor environment for students and staff. We never imagined that we would be nationally recognized and we are extremely grateful to the US EPA for acknowledging our efforts," stated Patrick Finnemore, Director of Facilities. Mr. Kevin Barlow-Christoun, Maintenance & Environmental Supervisor, will attend the awards ceremony on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at the *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium in Washington D.C. Travel and lodging expenses are provided for by the Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information about KUSD's Indoor Air Quality program, contact Patrick Finnemore at pfinnemo@kusd.edu.

For additional information about the EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program, visit www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.