



Uniform Indoor Air Quality Inspection and Evaluation Program

Reporting Year: 2024

Report Date: November 22, 2024

District: Meriden Public Schools

School: Thomas Hooker Elementary School
70 Overlook Road, Meriden, CT 06450

In accordance with section 10-220(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes (“CGS § 10-220(d)” or “IAQ Statute”), Meriden Public Schools completed a uniform Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) inspection and evaluation of Thomas Hooker Elementary School in 2024. This report provides summaries of the School’s inspections and evaluations undertaken pursuant to the 14 IAQ categories set forth in the IAQ Statute. Where applicable, Meriden Public Schools referred to and relied on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) IAQ Tools for Schools (TFS) guidance and checklists in its inspections and evaluations. The TFS checklists completed for the School in 2024 can be found [here](#).

1. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems

Meriden Public Schools completed this assessment requirement using a combination of the TFS general Walkthrough Inspection Checklist and Ventilation Checklist. These checklists provide guidance for evaluating multiple elements of the building’s HVAC systems, including the building’s outdoor intakes and potential pollutant sources, system cleanliness and preventative maintenance programs, control components, distribution systems, and exhaust systems.

In accordance with section 10-231e of the Connecticut General Statutes, Meriden Public Schools also ensures that the School’s HVAC systems are (1) maintained and operated in accordance with the prevailing maintenance standards at the time of installation or renovation of such systems, and (2) operated continuously during the hours in which students or School personnel occupy School facilities, except (A) during scheduled maintenance and emergency repairs, and (B) during periods for which School officials can demonstrate that the quantity of outdoor air supplied provides sufficient air changes.

In addition, Meriden Public Schools completed the HVAC evaluation required by the IAQ statute at Thomas Hooker Elementary School and the results can be found on the school’s [website](#)

This year’s assessment did not identify any issues with the HVAC system that required immediate action in connection with IAQ in the School or an update to reflect the findings.

2. Radon Levels in Air

Meriden Public Schools has a long-established radon testing program for the School in accordance with CGS § 10-220(d) and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) guidance. This program currently requires qualified and trained professionals to evaluate each school building for radon through sampling and laboratory analysis every three years as well as reporting to CTDPH.

Thomas Hooker Elementary School is currently being tested for radon and the reports will be available after December 22, 2024.



3. *Potential For Exposure to Microbiological Airborne Particles, Including, But Not Limited To, Fungi, Mold, and Bacteria*

Meriden Public Schools addressed this assessment requirement using a combination of EPA's TFS general Walkthrough Inspection, Building and Grounds Maintenance, Food Service, and Teacher's Classroom Checklists. The focus items include evaluation of drainage at the exterior and roof of the building, any evidence of interior moisture intrusion or moisture issues through roof or plumbing leaks or any consistent condensation, evidence of mold/mildew growth, etc.

The School's IAQ conditions were typical of school buildings and no concerns for microbiological airborne particles were noted in the assessment

4. *Chemical Compounds of Concern to Indoor Air Quality Including, But Not Limited To, Volatile Organic Compounds*

Meriden Public Schools addressed this assessment requirement using a combination of EPA's TFS general Walkthrough Inspection and Building and Grounds Maintenance checklists. The focus items include the evaluation of building maintenance supplies and grounds maintenance supplies and how they are used, stored, and labeled as well as spill response, engineering, and administrative controls used in conjunction with these products.

The assessment did not reveal any issues with chemicals of concern impacting the IAQ. Additionally, Meriden Public Schools continues to operate its green cleaning program utilizing environmentally preferable cleaning and disinfecting products or updates to reflect findings

5. *Degree Of Pest Infestation, Including, But Not Limited To, Insects and Rodents*

Meriden Public Schools addressed this assessment requirement using a combination of EPA's TFS general Walkthrough Inspection, Teacher's Classroom, Waste Management, Food Service, and Integrated Pest Management checklists. The focus items include the evaluation of pest evidence, entry points, food, water, and identification of potential pest habitats as well as establishing a regular monitoring program.

Buildings are visually inspected bi-weekly by Total Pest Control the district-integrated pest management company to determine if any infestation exists and to eliminate any condition that might be conducive to breeding or attracting pests. After the assessment, it was determined that any food stored in classrooms should be contained in plastic containers.

6. *Degree Of Pesticide Usage*

Meriden Public Schools operates an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in accordance with CGS § 10-231a-231d. The IPM program requires Meriden Public Schools to evaluate alternative pest management methods before using pesticides, utilize the least toxic method to address the pest problem and ensure all pest control products are used and stored in accordance with regulatory and manufacturer requirements by trained and qualified personnel. The plan further requires notifications to school occupants and parents of pesticide applications through posted notices and/or letters and that records of IPM practices and a pest management log be maintained for the School.

The application of pesticides on School grounds is avoided unless there is an emergency and it is only used under the direction of a licensed pesticide applicator.



7. The Presence Of And The Plans For Removal Of Any Hazardous Substances That Are Contained On The List Prepared Pursuant To Section 302 Of The Federal Emergency Planning And Community Right-To-Know Act, 42 USC 9601 Et Seq. (EPCRA)

Meriden Public Schools has evaluated the School for the potential presence of “extremely hazardous substances” as listed in EPCRA Section 302 and determined there are currently none present.

8. Ventilation Systems

The assessment of the School’s ventilation systems is addressed in Section 1 herein.

9. Plumbing, Including Water Distribution Systems, Drainage Systems and Fixtures

Meriden Public Schools addressed this assessment requirement using a combination of EPA’s TFS General Walkthrough Inspection, Building and Grounds Maintenance, Teacher’s Classroom, and Food Service checklists. The focus items include the evaluation of drainage and plumbing systems for evidence of leaks, odors, staining, condensation, and evidence of mold/mildew growth.

Based on the walkthrough, no plumbing issues affecting IAQ were identified

10. Moisture Incursion

Meriden Public Schools addressed this assessment requirement using a combination of EPA’s TFS general Walkthrough Inspection, Building and Grounds Maintenance, Teacher’s Classroom and Food Service checklists. The focus items include evaluation of drainage at the exterior and roof of the building, evidence of interior moisture intrusion or moisture issues through roof or plumbing leaks or consistent condensation, and evidence of mold/mildew growth.

In Meriden, if school staff see issues of moisture incursion they report them to the head custodian. The head custodian enters a work order ticket. When these issues are identified via the ticket process or otherwise brought to the attention of the Facilities Department, such as a wet or discolored ceiling tile, the wet surface is repaired or replaced as applicable, and the root cause of the moisture is evaluated and addressed.

11. Overall Cleanliness of The Facilities

Meriden Public Schools addressed this assessment requirement using a combination of EPA’s TFS general Walkthrough Inspection, Teacher’s Classroom, Waste Management, Food Service, and Integrated Pest Management checklists. The focus items include evaluation of sanitary conditions in food handling and storage areas, ensuring waste does not accumulate, verifying walk-off mats are present at each entrance, ensuring proper procedures are in place for dust control during cleaning activities and a schedule is established for vacuuming and mopping floors.

At Thomas Hooker minor dust collection in the stairwells was noted in limited areas, but overall, the School facility was acceptably clean.



12. Building Structural Elements, Including, But Not Limited To, Roofing, Basements or Slabs

Meriden Public Schools addressed this assessment requirement using a combination of EPA's TFS general Walkthrough Inspection and Building and Grounds Maintenance checklists. The focus items include visual evaluation of roofing materials and structural components of the building.

13. Use Of Space, Particularly Areas That Were Designed to Be Unoccupied

Meriden Public Schools continuously evaluates the use of space at the School. Meriden Public Schools staff understand that spaces not designed to be occupied may not have adequate ventilation or meet minimum requirements for heating or cooling.

Thomas Hooker's walkthrough did not identify the use of any spaces contrary to their intended use (e.g., the use of a closet as an office).

14. The Provision of Indoor Air Quality Maintenance Training for Building Staff

Meriden Public Schools building staff have been trained, most recently in 2024, in the use of the EPA TFS checklists to gather information related to the overall condition of the school building. Staff understand that findings must be documented and addressed promptly. Additionally, certain staff members have specialized training related to HVAC, plumbing, nursing, groundskeeping, etc., and serve a critical role in addressing identified concerns if/when they arise.