



Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids

Curriculum Support Materials

Early childhood exposure to lead can cause irreversible cognitive decline and behavioral difficulties at any level of exposure. While there is a ban on lead in paint and gasoline, there is still an allowable amount of lead in piping and plumbing used for drinking and cooking water. Lead can sometimes leach into the water from corroded pipes between the utility and the faucet. Older buildings and piping built before 1988 also may have piping and plumbing made of 100% lead. This may lead to exposure to lead from drinking and cooking water.

The Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids™ program is a legislatively mandated effort to address lead and asbestos hazards in North Carolina public schools, licensed child care centers, and licensed family child care homes. The goal of the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids™ program is to identify and eliminate lead and asbestos hazards where North Carolina children learn and play. We partner with public schools, licensed child care centers, and family child care homes to identify these hazards, share results, and help facilities take action to ensure healthy learning environments for children. The Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids™ program is a partnership between RTI International, a nonprofit research institute, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) as a liaison.

These curriculum support materials are designed to engage students, teachers, parents, and the school community in the lead exposure prevention work that has been ongoing in North Carolina schools through the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program.

Teacher pilot of materials

Researchers from RTI International, in collaboration with DPI and the 3CK research team, are recruiting highly qualified, experienced educators across North Carolina to complete a curriculum pilot for a set of support materials that are currently in development. The time commitment to implement these materials may range from 30 mins - 180 mins.

Teachers participating in the pilot may be eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from their school system, for professional development activities supporting cross curricular connections and active science classrooms. We are requesting feedback on relevance, alignment, and ease of use. Teachers participating in all phases of the pilot would be compensated for their participation.

Curriculum Support Materials by Grade Band

Take-home Materials for Families	
Support Material	Description
Water Sources Infographic and Water Contamination Simulation	<p>These flyers are designed to explain how water travels from its source location to drinking and cooking taps and how contaminants may be introduced in that process. These flyers specifically look at major water sources across the three main regions of North Carolina (Coastal Plain/Tidewater, Piedmont, Mountains).</p> <p>Additionally, each flyer contains an activity that families can use to engage in conversation about water filtration and clean drinking water.</p>
Lead in Water 101	The infographic contains information about lead in drinking water and why lead-free water is important to human health.
Elementary (K-5)	
Lesson Plan – Diving into Water Quality	Lesson plans contain age-appropriate classroom activities aligned to North Carolina standards in ELA, Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies to engage students in a cross curricular understanding of the societal impacts of clean water as it applies to human health.
Slide Deck – Diving into Water Quality	Slide decks are available through Google Slides to supplement instruction and provide visual guidance through the lesson. Slide decks may be edited to best fit instructional needs.
Middle (6-8)	
Support Material	Description
Lesson Plan - Protecting Water Quality of North Carolina	Lesson plans contain age-appropriate classroom activities aligned to North Carolina standards in ELA, Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies to engage students in a cross curricular understanding of the societal impacts of clean water as it applies to human health.
Slide Deck - Protecting Water Quality of North Carolina	Slide decks are available through Google Slides to supplement instruction and provide visual guidance

	through the lesson. Slide decks may be edited to best fit instructional needs.
HyperDoc - Protecting Water Quality of North Carolina	HyperDocs are designed to support student processing and engagement with the materials throughout the lesson. HyperDocs are a digital, interactive note taking guide where students can add information and access resources as needed.
High (9-12)	
Support Material	Description
Lesson Plan - Exploring the Health Impacts of Water Quality	Lesson plans contain age-appropriate classroom activities aligned to North Carolina standards in ELA, Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies to engage students in a cross curricular understanding of the societal impacts of clean water as it applies to human health.
Slide Deck - Exploring the Health Impacts of Water Quality	Slide decks are available through Google Slides to supplement instruction and provide visual guidance through the lesson. Slide decks may be edited to best fit instructional needs.
HyperDoc - Exploring the Health Impacts of Water Quality	HyperDocs are designed to support student processing and engagement with the materials throughout the lesson. HyperDocs are a digital, interactive note taking guide where students can add information and access resources as needed.

Cross Curricular Connections

These curricular materials were designed for accessibility and usability across content areas, specifically within the context of Science, Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and Social Studies. Standards from each of these content areas were considered in the development of the materials. While a teacher of a particular content may choose to use these materials in their classroom, it is important to emphasize that issues of human health often have a broad reaching impact in society, and it is important for students to recognize why this material may apply in other content areas or additional contexts.

Differentiation of Materials

All materials are designed to be completed within the classroom and do not require students to complete work at home. The time allotted to each activity within the lessons is a recommendation and may be modified based on an individual teacher's schedule. Additionally,



all materials may be scaled up or down to best meet the needs of diverse learners. Materials across grade bands may be valuable in designing instruction for all students.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I participate in the pilot?

- Explore the resources and decide which you will use in your classroom this spring
- Sign up to participate in the pilot
- Implement the lessons with at least one class
- Provide feedback through our online form on relevance, alignment, and ease of use
- (Optional) Participate in a focus group for more in-depth discussion of the resources, with compensation.
- Receive CEU support letter upon completion

Sign up now to receive a link to the feedback form! You can download the materials for your grade band at <https://www.cleanwaterforuskids.org/en/carolina/curriculum>.

Will I be compensated for participating in the pilot?

All pilot participants can receive a letter confirming their participation in this training and leadership development experience that many districts will recognize for continuing education units.

Pilot participants who join a focus group meeting, in addition to using a set of the materials in the classroom and submitting a feedback form, will receive a gift card for \$50. Thirty seats are available for the focus group.

Do I have to teach the lesson exactly as it is written, or can I modify the instruction?

Teachers may modify the lessons as they need to accommodate the needs of students or the time available for instruction. We recommend teachers try to use all resources available, when possible. Materials are designed to align with specific elementary, middle, and high school standards; however, teachers may also use materials across grade bands to make accommodations for diverse learners.

What is the timeline for the pilot program?

The pilot program will run from February through the end of May 2024.

Will materials be available in Spanish?



The flyers to send home to families will soon be available in Spanish. If you have interest in other materials in Spanish, please include that in your pilot feedback!

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Reach out to us through <https://www.cleanwaterforuskids.org/en/carolina/contact/>.