



SAFER SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES **BEST PRACTICES CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Lessons from the Field -

Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation in America's K-12 Schools: Guidance and Strategies for Improved Results

Wednesday, June 30, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:15 PM ET

Speaker Bios

Ruth Ryder

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Ruth Ryder is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy and Programs – Formula Grants in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) at the U.S. Department of Education. OESE implements programs to support disadvantaged students under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. In this role, Ms. Ryder oversees a broad range of management, policy, and program functions related to formula and discretionary grant programs under the ESEA. During her time in OESE, Ms. Ryder has sought to improve coordination across ESEA programs, increase communication with State customers and partners, and streamline internal processes. In addition, Ms. Ryder is leading an effort to improve alignment of technical assistance both within OESE, as well as across the Department. These efforts have resulted in improved ability to meet grantee needs, reduced duplication of effort, and increased return on investment. Ms. Ryder was previously the deputy director of the Office of Special Education Programs in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, which she joined in 1988. Prior to joining the Department, Ms. Ryder was a program administrator in a Washington state school district. Additionally, Ms. Ryder has been a special education consulting teacher and a general education classroom teacher. Ms. Ryder has a bachelor's degree in psychology and elementary education and a master's degree in special education.

Diane Rentner

Office of State and Grantee Relations, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Diane Rentner has worked in Federal education policy since 1985. She began her career in the Federal relations offices of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National PTA. From 1988 to 1994, Diane served as a staff member on the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and

Labor, working on the reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Higher Education Act, the National School Lunch Program, and the authorization of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act. From 1995 to 2020, she was the deputy director of the Center on Education Policy where she led the Center's research, including studies on State and local implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the Common Core State Standards. In August 2020, Diane joined the U.S. Department of Education as the policy lead for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, Governor's Emergency Education Relief, and the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public School programs.

Jane Hess

Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Education

Jane Hess has been a program attorney in the Division of Elementary, Secondary, Adult and Vocational Education in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education since 1985. Throughout her career she has provided legal advice for a number of program areas including Impact Aid, Disaster Recovery Assistance, and school facilities construction. Prior to attending law school, Ms. Hess taught high school English and Journalism.

Kenneth Mead

Senior Research Engineer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Kenneth Mead is a mechanical engineer and industrial hygienist. He is the Branch Chief of the Engineering and Physical Hazards Branch within the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). In this role, he oversees a large team of engineers, scientists and support personnel who design and evaluate engineering control solutions to reduce occupational exposures in traditional and emergency response environments. Dr. Mead has over 30 years of experience providing occupational safety and health engineering support, primarily to Department of Defense, construction, and healthcare industries. His research experience encompasses a wide variety of occupational hazards including silica, infectious aerosols, hazardous drugs, Anthrax and Ebola. He is a registered professional engineer, a recognized expert in healthcare facility ventilation issues and serves on multiple committees within the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers, now known as ASHRAE, including his current roles as Secretary of ASHRAE's Technical Committee 9.6 Healthcare Facilities, Chair of the Subcommittee on Infectious Diseases, and membership on ASHRAE's Standard 170 Committee, Ventilation of Healthcare Facilities. Throughout the CDC's COVID-19 pandemic response, Dr. Mead has used his knowledge of controlling infectious aerosols and other contaminants in a leadership role during the development of CDC's engineering controls and protective ventilation guidance.

Tracy Enger

Indoor Air Quality Schools Program Team Leader, Environmental Protection Agency

Tracy Washington Enger has worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Air since 1994. In her current position in the Indoor Environments Division, she develops, promotes, and implements education and outreach programs that protect public health from indoor environmental pollutants. She has worked for 20 years on building capacity for school districts across the country to create greener, cleaner, healthier learning environments by implementing the EPA Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS) Action Kit. In addition to the IAQ TFS Action Kit itself, she has been instrumental in the development of a suite of products to assist schools in taking action to address IAQ

issues, including newly developed guidance documents on preventative maintenance, websites, National and regional in-person training events, and series of professional training webinars.

Ricky Martinez

Assistant Director of Facility Services, Salt Lake City School District

Ricky Martinez has 25 years of experience at the Salt Lake City School District, currently serving as the Assistant Director of Facility Services for the school district. During this tenure with the district, he has served as the Assistant Custodial Supervisor working on establishing the District's recycling program that became a model for other Districts and piloted and implemented a Green Cleaning program that included environmentally responsible chemicals and processes. Another key role of Mr. Martinez' has been developing training for the custodial staff. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Utah Schools Custodial Managers Association and is the former President of the Utah Schools Employee Association.

Mark Cocco

Safety Manager, Martin County Public Schools, FL

President, Florida State Plant Management Association

Mark A. Cocco is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in safety management. Mark has 36 years of experience in the field of safety. He is a certified Indoor Air Quality professional; State of Florida Certified Fire Inspector I; a certified playground safety inspector; and a certified safety, security, and sanitation inspector. He is the past (2009) and current president of the Florida State Plant Management Association. Mark has worked for the Martin County School District for 22 years. Mark also has safety experience in the fields of General Safety, Construction Safety, Product Safety and Machine Guarding. He has testified in more than 300 product liability cases as an expert witness.

Fred Remelius

Director of Operations, Upper Merion Area School District, PA

Fred Remelius has more than 30 years of facilities management & plant engineering experience. Currently as the Director of Operations Upper Merion Area School District, Fred is responsible for a \$12 million budget to provide transportation, food services, utilities, custodial, grounds, maintenance, security and new construction and capital project management using a staff of 130+ full, part time and contracted employees. Fred has a wealth of experience in Preventive Maintenance (PM) and Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS). Fred has certified 6 buildings for ENERGY STAR rating and earned the Environmental Achievement and Energy Star Leader Awards from US EPA.