School/Facility: Glenwood Middle

Location: Classrooms 27 and 32

Date of IEQ Report Form: December 1 and 12, 2016

Date(s) Investigated: Did not require investigation.

Date of Report: December 23, 2016

IEQ Concern:

Staff reported low relative humidity in the classroom.

IEQ Investigation Process:

Identify deficiencies that may impact IEQ and/or sources of odor concerns. Typically includes the following depending on the nature of concern, but not limited to:

- interview/questionnaire of concern individual(s)
- inspection above drop ceiling (condition of roof deck, pipe insulation, return air plenum)
- inspection of ventilation system (operation of variable air volume box and outdoor air dampers, check controls, measurements of carbon dioxide, temperature and relative humidity, sources near outdoor air intake, measure return and supply air volume, cleanliness of coils, liner and condensate pan)
- inspection of exterior
- inspection below drop ceiling (housekeeping, sink and floor drain traps, signs of past and present moisture concern via visual and/or moisture meter, mold growth, ensure connection of current and capping of abandoned sanitary vents, odorizers, excessive plants and fabric items, identify potential pathways, and measure volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and lighting)

Findings:

- Staff indicated relative humidity at times to below 30% which is below the comfort level per American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

Corrective Actions:

- It is common for commercial buildings in this region of the country to experience relative humidity below 30% during the winter due to drier ambient and heated interior air. Buildings in this region do not generally implement humidification within their HVAC systems.

- HCPSS Office of the Environment **prohibits the use of portable humidifiers** because they can become an environmental health concern (produce bacteria causing clinical illnesses, such as humidifier fever) if not properly maintained.