

## **SAT Initiative: Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School (Shreveport, LA)**

This document describes the analysis of air monitoring and other data collected under EPA's initiative to assess potentially elevated air toxics levels at some of our nation's schools. The document has been prepared for technical audiences (e.g., risk assessors, meteorologists) and their management. It is intended to describe the technical analysis of data collected for this school in clear, but generally technical, terms. A summary of this analysis is presented on the page focused on this school on EPA's web site ([www.epa.gov/schoolair](http://www.epa.gov/schoolair)).

### **I. Executive Summary**

- Air monitoring has been conducted at Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School as part of the EPA initiative to monitor specific air toxics in the outdoor air around priority schools in 22 states and 2 tribal areas.
- This school was selected for monitoring based on information indicating the potential for elevated ambient concentrations of hexavalent chromium in air outside the school. That information included estimates of significant emissions of total chromium in EPA's 2002 National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) for a nearby food equipment manufacturing facility.
- Air monitoring was performed from August 29 to December 15, 2009 for hexavalent chromium and carbonyl compounds, although no carbonyls were identified as key pollutants.
- Measured hexavalent chromium and carbonyl compound levels and associated longer-term concentration estimates are below levels of concern for short-term and long-term exposures. They are not as high as suggested by the information available prior to monitoring.
- The levels of hexavalent chromium and carbonyl compounds measured in the outdoor air at this school do not indicate influence of a nearby source.
- Based on the analysis described here, EPA will not extend air toxics monitoring at this school.
- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) will continue to oversee industrial facilities in the area through air permits and other programs.

### **II. Background on this Initiative**

As part of an EPA initiative to implement Administrator Lisa Jackson's commitment to assess potentially elevated air toxics levels at some of our nation's schools, EPA and state and local air pollution control agencies are monitoring specific (key) air toxics in the outdoor air around priority schools in 22 states and 2 tribal areas (<http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/schools.html>).

- The schools selected for monitoring include some schools that are near large industries that are sources of air toxics, and some schools that are in urban areas, where emissions

of air toxics come from a mix of large and small industries, cars, trucks, buses and other sources.

- EPA selected schools based on information available to us about air pollution in the vicinity of the school, including results of the 2002 National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), results from a 2008 USA Today analysis on air toxics at schools, and information from state and local air agencies. The analysis by USA Today involved use of EPA's Risk Screening Environmental Indicators tool and Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) for 2005.
  - Available information had raised some questions about air quality near these schools that EPA concluded merited investigation. In many cases, the information indicated that estimated long-term average concentrations of one or more air toxics were above the upper end of the range that EPA generally considers as acceptable (e.g., above 1-in-10,000 cancer risk for carcinogens).
- Monitors are placed at each school for approximately 60 days, and take air samples on at least 10 different days during that time. The samples are analyzed for specific air toxics identified for monitoring at the school (i.e., key pollutants).<sup>1</sup>
- These monitoring results and other information collected at each school during this initiative allow us to:
  - assess specific air toxics levels occurring at these sites and associated estimates of longer-term concentrations in light of health risk-based criteria for long-term exposures,
  - better understand, in many cases, potential contributions from nearby sources to key air toxics concentrations at the schools,
  - consider what next steps might be appropriate to better understand and address air toxics at the school, and
  - improve the information and methods we will use in the future (e.g., NATA) for estimating air toxics concentrations in communities across the U.S.

Assessment of air quality under this initiative is specific to the air toxics identified for monitoring at each school. This initiative is being implemented in addition to ongoing state, local and national air quality monitoring and assessment activities, including those focused on criteria pollutants (e.g., ozone and particulate matter) or existing, more extensive, air toxics programs.

Several technical documents prepared for this project provide further details on aspects of monitoring and data interpretation and are available on the EPA website (e.g., [www.epa.gov/schoolair/techinfo.html](http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/techinfo.html)). The full titles of these documents are provided here:

- *School Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring Plan*
- *Quality Assurance Project Plan For the EPA School Air Toxics Monitoring Program*
- *Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Activity (2009), Uses of Health Effects Information in Evaluating Sample Results*

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<sup>1</sup> In analyzing air samples for these key pollutants, samples are also being analyzed for some additional pollutants that are routinely included in the analytical methods for the key pollutants.

Information on health effects of air toxics being monitored<sup>2</sup> and educational materials describing risk concepts<sup>3</sup> are also available from EPA's web site.

### **III. Basis for Selecting this School and the Air Monitoring Conducted**

EPA selected this school for monitoring because we were interested in evaluating the ambient concentrations of hexavalent chromium in air outside the school because of significant total chromium emissions in EPA's 2002 National Air Toxics Assessment for a nearby food equipment manufacturing facility. We also evaluated the ambient concentrations of several carbonyl compounds although no key pollutants from this group were identified.

Monitoring commenced at this school on August 29 and continued through December 15, 2009. During this period, 12 hexavalent chromium samples (the key pollutant) of airborne particles were collected and analyzed at this school. Additionally, ten carbonyl samples were also collected and analyzed for additional air toxics. All sampling methodologies are described in EPA's schools air toxics monitoring plan (<http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/techinfo.html>).<sup>4</sup>

### **IV. Monitoring Results and Analysis**

#### **A. Background for the SAT Analysis**

The majority of schools being monitored in this initiative were selected based on modeling analyses (NATA 2002) that indicated the potential for annual average air concentrations of some specific (key) hazardous air pollutants (HAPs or air toxics)<sup>5</sup> to be of particular concern based on approaches that are commonly used in the air toxics program for considering potential for long-term risk. For example, such analyses suggested annual average concentrations of some air toxics greater than long-term risk-based concentrations associated with an additional cancer risk greater than 10-in-10,000 or a hazard index on the order of or above 10. To make projections of air concentrations, the modeling analysis combined estimates of air toxics emissions from industrial, motor vehicle and other sources, with past measurements of winds, and other meteorological factors that can influence air concentrations, from a weather station in the general area. In some cases, the weather station was very close (within a few miles), but in other cases, it was much further away (e.g., up to 60 miles). This discrepancy may contribute to quite different weather conditions being modeled than actually exist at the school. In fact, meteorological conditions can be quite variable within short distances based on local terrain including hills, rivers or tall buildings.

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<sup>2</sup> For example, <http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/pollutants.html>, [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/fera/risk\\_atoxic.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/fera/risk_atoxic.html).

<sup>3</sup> For example, [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/3\\_90\\_022.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/3_90_022.html), [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/3\\_90\\_024.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/3_90_024.html).

<sup>4</sup> LDEQ operated the monitors and sent the filters and cartridges to the analytical laboratory under contract to EPA.

<sup>5</sup> The term hazardous air pollutants (commonly called HAPs or air toxics) refers to pollutants identified in section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act which are the focus of regulatory actions involving stationary sources described by CAA section 112 and are distinguished from the six pollutants for which criteria and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) are developed as described in section 108. One of the criteria pollutants, lead, is also represented, as lead compounds, on the HAP list.

The primary objective of this initiative is to investigate – through monitoring air concentrations of key air toxics at each school over a 2-3 month period – whether levels measured and associated longer-term concentration estimates are of a magnitude, in light of health risk-based criteria, for which follow-up activities may need to be considered. To evaluate the monitoring results consistent with this objective, we developed health risk-based air concentrations (the long-term comparison levels summarized in Appendix A) for the monitored air toxics using established EPA methodology and practices for health risk assessment<sup>6</sup> and, in the case of cancer risk, consistent with the implied level of risk considered in identifying schools for monitoring. Consistent with the long-term or chronic focus of the modeling analyses, based on which these schools were selected for monitoring, we have analyzed the full record of concentrations of air toxics measured at this school, using routine statistical tools, to derive a 95 percent confidence interval<sup>7</sup> for the estimate of the longer-term average concentration of each of these pollutants. In this project, we are reporting all actual numerical values for pollutant concentrations including any values below method detection limit (MDL).<sup>8</sup> Additionally, a value of 0.0 is used when a measured pollutant has no value detected (ND). The projected range for the longer-term concentration estimate for each chemical (most particularly the upper end of the range) is compared to the long-term comparison levels. These long-term comparison levels conservatively presume continuous (all-day, all-year) exposure over a lifetime. The analysis of the air concentrations also includes a consideration of the potential for cumulative multiple pollutant impacts.<sup>9</sup> In general, where the monitoring results indicate estimates of longer-term average concentrations that are above the comparison levels – i.e., above the cancer-based comparison levels or notably above the noncancer-based comparison levels – we will consider the need for follow-up actions such as:

- Additional monitoring of air concentrations and/or meteorology in the area,
- Evaluation of potentially contributing sources to help us confirm their emissions and identify what options (regulatory and otherwise) may be available to us to achieve emissions reductions, and

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<sup>6</sup> While this EPA initiative will rely on EPA methodology, practices, assessments and risk policy considerations, we recognize that individual state methods, practices and policies may differ and subsequent analyses of the monitoring data by state agencies may draw additional or varying conclusions.

<sup>7</sup> When data are available for only a portion of the period of interest (e.g., samples not collected on every day during this period), statisticians commonly calculate the 95% confidence interval around the dataset mean (or average) in order to have a conservative idea of how high or low the “true” mean may be. More specifically, this interval is the range in which the mean for the complete period of interest is expected to fall 95% of the time (95% probability is commonly used by statisticians). The interval includes an equal amount of quantities above and below the sample dataset mean. The interval that includes these quantities is calculated using a formula that takes into account the size of the data set (i.e., the ‘n’) as well as the amount by which the individual data values vary from the dataset mean (i.e., the “standard deviation”). This calculation yields larger confidence intervals for smaller data sets as well as ones with more variable data points. For example, a dataset including {1.0, 3.0, and 5.0}, results in a mean of 3.0 and a 95% confidence interval of 3.0 +/- ~5 (or -2.0 to 8.0). For comparison purposes, a dataset including {2.5, 3 and 3.5} results in a mean of 3.0 and a 95% confidence interval of 3.0 +/- ~1.2 (or 1.8 to 4.2). The smaller variation within the data in the second set of values causes the second confidence interval to be smaller.

<sup>8</sup> Method detection limit (MDL) is the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence that the pollutant concentration is greater than zero and is determined from the analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the pollutant.

<sup>9</sup> As this analysis of a 2-3 month monitoring dataset is not intended to be a full risk assessment, consideration of potential multiple pollutant impacts may differ among sites. For example, in instances where no individual pollutant appears to be present above its comparison level, we will also check for the presence of multiple pollutants at levels just below their respective comparison levels (giving a higher priority to such instances).

- Evaluation of actions being taken or planned nationally, regionally or locally that may achieve emission and or exposure reductions. An example of this would be actions taken to address the type of ubiquitous emissions that come from mobile sources.

We have further analyzed the dataset to describe what it indicates in light of some other criteria and information commonly used in prioritizing state, local and national air toxics program activities. State, local and national programs often develop long-term monitoring data sets in order to better characterize pollutants near particular sources. The 2-3 month dataset developed under this initiative will be helpful to those programs in setting priorities for longer term monitoring projects. The intent of this analysis is to make this 2-3 month monitoring dataset as useful as possible to state, local and national air toxics program in their longer term efforts to improve air quality nationally. To that end, this analysis:

- Describes the air toxics measurements in terms of potential longer-term concentrations, and, as available, compares the measurements at this school to monitoring data from national monitoring programs.
- Describes the meteorological data by considering conditions on sampling days as compared to those over all the days within the 2-3 month monitoring period and what conditions might be expected over the longer-term (as indicated, for example, by information from a nearby weather station).
- Describes available information regarding activities and emissions at the nearby source(s) of interest, such as that obtained from public databases such as TRI and/or consultation with the local air pollution authority.

## **B. Chemical Concentrations**

We developed two types of long-term health risk-related comparison levels (summarized in Appendix A below) to address our primary objective. The primary objective is to investigate through the monitoring data collected for key pollutants at the school, whether pollutant levels measured and associated longer-term concentration estimates are elevated enough in comparison with health risk-based criteria to indicate that follow-up activities be considered. These comparison levels conservatively presume continuous (all-day, all-year) exposure over a lifetime.

In developing or identifying these comparison levels, we have given priority to use of relevant and appropriate air standards and EPA risk assessment guidance and precedents.<sup>10</sup> These levels are based upon health effects information, exposure concentrations and risk estimates developed and assessed by EPA, the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the California EPA. These agencies recognize the need to account for potential differences in sensitivity or susceptibility of different groups (e.g., asthmatics) or lifestages/ages (e.g., young children or the elderly) to a particular pollutant's effects so that the resulting comparison levels are relevant for these potentially sensitive groups as well as the broader population.

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<sup>10</sup> This is described in detail in *Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Activity (2009), Uses of Health Effects Information in Evaluating Sample Results*.

In addition to evaluating individual pollutants with regard to their corresponding comparison levels, we also considered the potential for cumulative impacts from multiple pollutants in cases where individual pollutant levels fall below the comparison levels but where multiple pollutant mean concentrations are within an order of magnitude of their comparison levels.

Using the analysis approach described above, we analyzed the chemical concentration data (Table 1 and Figure 1) with regard to areas of interest identified below.

**Key findings** drawn from the information on chemical concentrations and the considerations discussed below include:

- The air sampling data collected over the 3-month sampling period do not indicate influence from a nearby source of hexavalent chromium emissions and are below concentrations of significant concern for short- and long-term exposures.

#### Hexavalent Chromium, the key pollutant:

- Do the monitoring data indicate influence from a nearby source?
  - No. The monitoring data do not include hexavalent chromium concentrations that are higher than concentrations commonly observed in other locations nationally.<sup>11</sup>
- Do the monitoring data indicate elevated levels that pose significant long-term health concerns?
  - No. The monitoring data for hexavalent chromium do not indicate significant levels of health concern for long-term exposures.
    - The highest measured concentration is more than 200-fold lower than both of the long-term comparison levels (Table 2). These comparison levels are continuous exposure concentrations (24 hours a day, all year, over a lifetime).
  - Additionally, we did not identify any concerns regarding short-term exposures as each individual measurement is below the individual sample screening level for hexavalent chromium (which is based on consideration of exposure all day, every day over a period ranging from a couple of weeks to longer for some pollutants).<sup>10</sup>
  - In summary, the individual measurements do not indicate significant concentrations of concern for short- or long-term exposures.

#### Other Air Toxics:

- Do the monitoring data indicate elevated levels of any other air toxics (or HAPs) that pose significant long-term health concerns?

<sup>11</sup> For example, none of the concentrations at this site (Table 2) were higher than 75 percent of samples collected at the National Air Toxics Trends Stations (NATTS) from 2004-2008 (Appendix B). Because these NATTS sites are generally sited so as to not be influenced by specific nearby sources, EPA is using the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile point of concentrations at these sites as a benchmark for indicating potential influence from a source nearby to the school.

- The monitoring data show low levels of the other HAPs monitored, with longer-term concentration estimates for these HAPs below their long-term comparison levels (Appendix C). Additionally each individual measurement for these pollutants is below the individual sample screening level for that pollutant.<sup>10</sup>

### Multiple Pollutants:

- Do the data collected for the air toxics monitored indicate the potential for other monitored pollutants to be present at levels that in combination with the key pollutant levels indicate an increased potential for cumulative impacts of significant concern (e.g., that might warrant further investigation)?
- The data collected for the key and other air toxics and the associated longer-term concentration estimates are below levels of significant concern for cumulative health risk from these pollutants (Appendix C).<sup>12</sup> However, these results do indicate the influence of multiple pollutants that may occur in the air at this school as a result of several different sources, including cars and trucks and the exhaust of other gasoline-powered engines. Because these types of sources are found almost everywhere where there are people, these pollutants are commonly elevated in urban areas across the country, and EPA has identified them as a national priority for reductions in the air in communities across the country.<sup>13</sup>

### **C. Wind and Other Meteorological Data**

At each school monitored as part of this initiative, we are collecting meteorological data, minimally for wind speed and direction, during the sampling period. Additionally, we have identified the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) station at which a longer record is available.

In reviewing these data at each school in this initiative, we are considering if these data indicate that the general pattern of winds on our sampling dates are significantly different from those occurring across the full sampling period or from those expected over the longer term. Additionally, we are noting, particularly for school sites where the measured chemical concentrations show little indication of influence from a nearby source, whether wind conditions on some portion of the sampling dates were indicative of a potential to capture contributions from the nearby “key” source in the air sample collected.

The meteorological station at Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School collected wind speed and wind direction measurements beginning on August 5, 2009, continuing through the sampling period, (August 29, 2009-December 15, 2009), and ending January 31, 2010. As a

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<sup>12</sup> We note that this initiative is focused on investigation for a school-specific set of key pollutants indicated by previous analyses (and a small set of others for which measurements are obtained in the same analysis). Combined impacts of pollutants or stressors other than those monitored in this project is a broader area of consideration in other EPA activities. General information on additional air pollutants is available at <http://www.epa.gov/air/airpollutants.html>

<sup>13</sup> Additional information about these pollutants are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/mobile.htm>, and information about activities to reduce emissions are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/toxics.htm>.

result, on-site data for these meteorological parameters are available for all dates of sample collection, and also for a period before and after the sampling period, producing a continuous record of nearly six months of on-site meteorological data. The meteorological data collected at the school site on sampling days are presented in Figure 1 and Table 2.

The nearest NWS station is at Shreveport Regional Airport in Shreveport, LA. This station is approximately 5 miles west-northwest of the school. Measurements taken at that station include wind, temperature, and precipitation. These are presented in Table 2 and Appendix E.

**Key findings** drawn from this information and the considerations discussed below include:

- The sampling results indicate that the nearby key source was not contributing to conditions at the school location even though during seven of the sampling days the wind blew at least partially from the direction of the source.
- The wind patterns at the monitoring site across sampling dates are somewhat similar to those observed across the record of on-site meteorological data during the sampling period with respect to the zone of influence (ZOI).
- Our ability to provide a confident characterization of the wind flow patterns at the monitoring site over the long-term is somewhat limited. However, the wind flow patterns at the NWS site at Shreveport Regional Airport are somewhat similar to the specific wind flow patterns at the school location with respect to the ZOI.
- Although we only have six months wind data at the monitoring site, the wind pattern at the NWS site during the sampling period is generally similar to the historical long-term wind flow pattern at that same NWS site. Therefore, the 4-month sampling period may be representative of year-round wind patterns.

- What is the direction of the key source of hexavalent chromium emissions in relation to the school location?
  - The nearby industrial facility emitting the key pollutant into the air (described in section III above) lies less than 1 mile south-southeast of the school.
  - Using the property boundaries of the full facility (in lieu of information regarding the location of specific sources of hexavalent chromium emissions at the facility), we have identified an approximate range of wind directions to use in considering the potential influence of this facility on air concentrations at the school.
  - This general range of wind directions, from approximately 125-190 degrees, is referred to here as the expected ZOI.
- On days the air samples were collected, how often did wind come from direction of the key source?
  - There were seven sampling days in which a portion of the winds were from the expected ZOI (Figure 1, Table 2).

- How do wind patterns on the air monitoring days compare to those across the complete monitoring period and what might be expected over the longer term at the school location?
  - Wind patterns across the air monitoring days are somewhat similar to those observed over the record of on-site meteorological data during the sampling period, with respect to the expected ZOI.
  - We note that wind patterns at the nearest NWS station (at Shreveport Regional Airport) during the sampling period are somewhat similar to those recorded at the NWS station over the long-term (2002-2007; Appendix E), supporting the idea that regional meteorological patterns in the area during the sampling period may be consistent with long-term patterns. However, there is some uncertainty as to whether this would also be the case at the school location because the general wind patterns at the school location are only somewhat similar to the general wind patterns at the Shreveport Regional Airport (see below).
  
- How do wind patterns at the school compare to those at the Shreveport Regional Airport station, particularly with regard to prevalent wind directions and the direction of the key source?
  - During the sampling period for which data are available both at the school site and at the reference NWS station (approximately 4 months), prevalent winds at the school site are predominantly from the east to southeast, while those at the NWS station are from the north and the east to southeast. The windroses for the two sites during the sampling period (Figure 1 and Appendix E) show some similarities in wind flow patterns with respect to the ZOI.
  
- Are there other meteorological patterns that may influence the measured concentrations at the school monitoring site?
  - No, we did not observe other meteorological patterns that may influence the measured concentrations at the school monitoring site.

## V. Key Source Information

- Was the source operating as usual during the monitoring period?
  - The nearby source of hexavalent chromium (described in section III above) has a Small Source Air Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) that includes operating requirements.<sup>14</sup>
  - Information from the nearby facility indicates that this facility's operations were fluctuating between 50-80% of normal capacity (100%) during the period of sampling. This was slightly below normal.

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<sup>14</sup> Operating permits, which are issued to air pollution sources under the Clean Air Act, are described at: <http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/permits/>

- The most recently available total chromium emissions for this source (2008 TRI) are lower than those relied upon in previous modeling analyses for this area (2002 NATA).

## **VI. Integrated Summary and Next Steps**

### **A. Summary of Key Findings**

1. What is the key HAP for this school?
  - Hexavalent chromium is the key HAP for this school, identified based on emissions information considered in identifying the school for monitoring. The ambient air concentrations during the monitoring period indicate that the nearby key source was not contributing to conditions at the school location.
2. Do the data collected at this school indicate an elevated level of concern, as implied by information that led to identifying this school for monitoring?
  - No. The measured levels are not as high as suggested by the information available prior to monitoring and are below levels of concern for long-term exposures.
3. Are there indications, e.g., from the meteorological or other data, that the sample set may not be indicative of longer-term air concentrations? Would we expect higher (or lower) concentrations at other times of year?
  - The data we have collected appear to reflect air concentrations during the entire sampling period, with no indications from the on-site meteorological data that the sampling day conditions were inconsistent with conditions overall during this period.
  - Among the data collected for this site, we have none that would indicate generally higher (or lower) concentrations during other times of year. The wind flow patterns at the nearest NWS station during the sampling period may be representative of long-term wind flow at that site. The lack of long-term meteorological data at the school location, along with our finding that the wind patterns from the nearest NWS station are only somewhat similar to those at the school, however, limit our ability to confidently predict longer-term wind patterns at the school (which might provide further evidence relevant to concentrations during other times).

### **B. Next Steps for Key Pollutants**

1. Based on the analysis described here, EPA will not extend air toxics monitoring at this school.
2. LDEQ will continue to oversee industrial facilities in the area through air permits and other programs.

**VII. Figures and Tables**

**A. Tables**

1. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School – Key Pollutant Analysis.
2. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School – Key Pollutant Concentrations and Meteorological Data.

**B. Figures**

1. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School – Concentration and Wind Information.

**VIII. Appendices**

- A. Summary Description of Long-term Comparison Levels.
- B. National Air Toxics Trends Stations Measurements (2004 through 2008).
- C. Analysis of Other (non-key) Air Toxics Monitored at the School and Multiple-pollutant Considerations.
- D. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School – Pollutant Concentrations.
- E. Windrose for Shreveport Regional Airport.

**Table 1. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School - Key Pollutant Analysis.**

Parameter	Units	Mean of Measurements	95% Confidence Interval on the Mean	Long-term Comparison Level <sup>a</sup>	
				Cancer-Based <sup>b</sup>	Noncancer-Based <sup>c</sup>
Hexavalent Chromium	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	75% of results were ND <sup>d</sup>		8.3 <sup>e</sup>	100

ng/m<sup>3</sup> nanograms per cubic meter

ND No detection of this chemical was registered by the laboratory analytical equipment.

<sup>a</sup> Details regarding these values are in the technical report, Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Activity (2009) Uses of Health Effects Information.

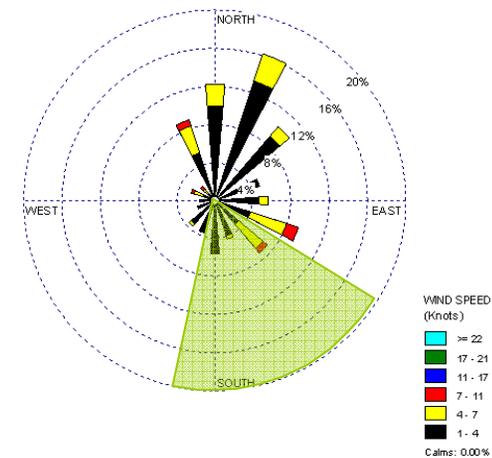
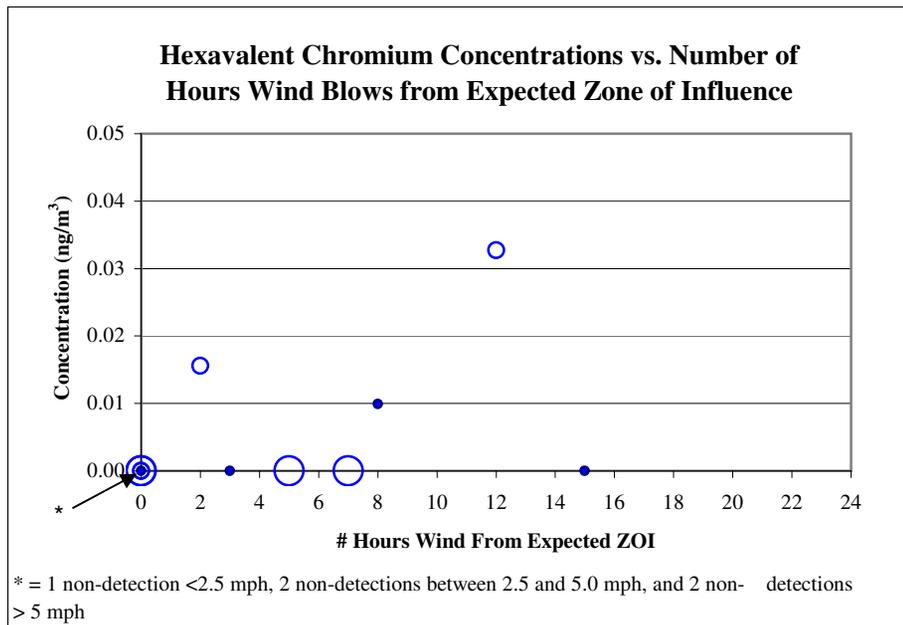
<sup>b</sup> Air toxics for which the upper 95% confidence limit on the mean concentration is above this level will be fully discussed in the text and may be considered a priority for potential follow-up activities, if indicated in light of the full set of information available for the site. Findings of the upper 95% confidence limit below 1% of the comparison level (i.e., where the upper 95% confidence limit is below the corresponding 1-in-1-million cancer risk based concentration) are generally considered a low priority for follow-up activity. Situations where the summary statistics for a pollutant are below this comparison level but above 1% of this level are fully discussed in the text of the report.

<sup>c</sup> Air toxics for which the upper 95% confidence limit on the mean concentration are near or below the noncancer-based comparison level are generally of low concern and will generally be considered a low priority for follow-up activity. Pollutants for which the 95% confidence limits extend appreciably above the noncancer-based comparison level are fully discussed in the school-specific report and may be considered a priority for follow-up activity, if indicated in light of the full set of information available for the site.

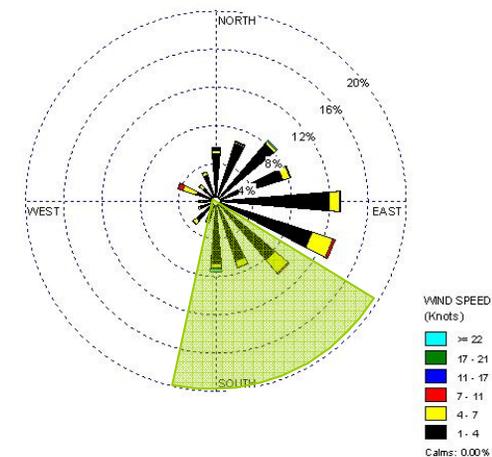
<sup>d</sup> Hexavalent chromium was detected in only 3 of 12 samples, ranging from 0.0099 to 0.0327 ng/m<sup>3</sup>. The MDL is 0.0043 ng/m<sup>3</sup>. The detected levels (as well as the method detection level) are well below the long-term comparison level. Therefore, had we estimated a mean and CI, they would be well below the long-term comparison level.

<sup>e</sup> This comparison value is based on the EPA IRIS cancer assessment. It is noted that the EPA is currently updating this assessment with regard to the mode of action. If the update were to conclude that this chemical is carcinogenic by a mutagenic mode of action, this comparison level would be revised to a slightly lower value of 5.2 ng/m<sup>3</sup>, consistent with EPA's Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Susceptibility from Early-Life exposure.

**Figure 1. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School (Shreveport, LA) Hexavalent Chromium Concentration and Wind Information.**



**Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School  
Composite Hourly Windrose  
on Sample Days  
(Aug. 29-Dec. 15, 2009)**



**Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School  
Composite Hourly Windrose  
Across Sampling Period  
(Aug. 29-Dec. 15, 2009)**

Expected Zone of Source Influence

**KEY**

**Pollutant: Hexavalent Chromium**  
**Timeframe: August 29 - December 15, 2009**

Note

Each circle denotes a 24-hour collection of air for chemical analysis. The size of the circle indicates the magnitude of the wind speed for that day (wind data shown in Table 2). The expected zone of source influence is a rough approximation of the range of directions from which winds carrying chemicals emitted by the key source may originate.

- Wind Speed: 0.1-2.5 mph
- Wind Speed: 2.5-5.0 mph
- Wind Speed: > 5.0 mph

**Table 2. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School Key Pollutant Concentrations and Meteorological Data.**

Parameter	Units	8/29/2009	9/4/2009	10/4/2009	10/22/2009	10/28/2009	11/3/2009	11/15/2009	11/21/2009	11/27/2009	12/3/2009	12/9/2009	12/15/2009
Hexavalent Chromium	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.0099	0.0327	ND	0.0156	ND	ND	ND
% Hours w/Wind Direction from Expected ZOI <sup>a</sup>	%	0.0	62.5	0.0	20.8	29.2	33.3	50.0	12.5	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wind Speed (avg. of hourly speeds)	mph	1.9	1.8	8.0	7.6	5.6	1.8	3.1	1.4	3.0	3.7	5.0	4.4
Wind Direction (avg. of unitized vector) <sup>b</sup>	deg.	353.5	168.3	57.0	259.5	116.8	87.2	139.2	75.1	216.5	4.9	326.7	25.7
% of Hours with Speed below 2 knots	%	70.8	79.2	4.2	13.3	0.0	83.3	29.2	100.0	25.0	0.0	12.5	4.2
Daily Average Temperature	° F	77.8	75.6	61.9	64.8	61.7	60.9	66.6	54.9	50.8	41.1	40.1	46.9
Daily Precipitation	inches	0.00	0.03	3.03	2.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04

Due to instrument error, meteorological measurements were not collected at Eden Gardens Elementary School on October 4th. As such, hourly wind information was extracted from the Shreveport Regional Airport NWS Station for this day, and used as a surrogate. Additionally, wind speed and wind direction values were not complete for several hours on October 22nd. Data from the same NWS station was extracted and used as a surrogate.

All precipitation and temperature data were from the Shreveport Regional Airport NWS Station.

ND No results of this chemical were registered by the laboratory analytical equipment.

<sup>a</sup> Based on count of hours for which vector wind direction is from expected zone of influence.

<sup>b</sup> Wind direction for each day is represented by values derived by scalar averaging of hourly estimates that were produced (by wind instrumentation's logger) as unitized vectors (specified as degrees from due north).

## Appendix A. Summary Description of Long-term Comparison Levels

In addressing the primary objective identified above, to investigate through the monitoring data collected for key pollutants at the school whether levels are of a magnitude, in light of health risk-based criteria, to indicate that follow-up activities be considered, we developed two types of long-term health risk-related comparison levels. These two types of levels are summarized below.<sup>15</sup>

### Cancer-based Comparison Levels

- For air toxics where applicable, we developed cancer risk-based comparison levels to help us consider whether the monitoring data collected at the school indicate the potential for concentrations to pose incremental cancer risk above the range that EPA generally considers acceptable in regulatory decision-making to someone exposed to those concentrations continuously (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) over an entire lifetime.<sup>16</sup> This general range is from 1 to 100 in a million.
- Air toxics with long-term mean concentrations below one one-hundredth of this comparison level would be below a comparably developed level for 1-in-a-million risk (which is the lower bound of EPA's traditional acceptable risk range). Such pollutants, with long-term mean concentrations below the Agency's traditional acceptable risk range, are generally considered to pose negligible risk.
- Air toxics with long-term mean concentrations above the acceptable risk range would generally be a priority for follow-up activities. In this evaluation, we compare the upper 95% confidence limit on the mean concentration to the comparison level. Pollutants for which this upper limit falls above the comparison level are fully discussed in the school monitoring report and may be considered a priority for potential follow-up activities in light of the full set of information available for that site.
- Situations where the summary statistics for a pollutant are below the cancer-based comparison level but above 1% of that level are fully discussed in Appendix C.

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<sup>15</sup> These levels are described in more detail *Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Activity (2009), Uses of Health Effects Information in Evaluating Sample Results*.

<sup>16</sup> While no one would be exposed at a school for 24 hours a day, every day for an entire lifetime, we chose this worst-case exposure period as a simplification for the basis of the comparison level in recognition of other uncertainties in the analysis. Use of continuous lifetime exposure yields a lower, more conservative, comparison level than would use of a characterization more specific to the school population (e.g., 5 days a week, 8-10 hours a day for a limited number of years).

### Noncancer-based Comparison Levels

- To consider concentrations of air toxics other than lead (for which we have a national ambient air quality standard) with regard to potential for health effects other than cancer, we derived noncancer-based comparison levels using EPA chronic reference concentrations (or similar values). A chronic reference concentration (RfC) is an estimate of a long-term continuous exposure concentration (24 hours a day, every day) without appreciable risk of adverse effect over a lifetime.<sup>17</sup> This differs from the cancer risk-based comparison level in that it represents a concentration without appreciable risk vs a risk-based concentration.
- In using this comparison level in this initiative, the upper end of the 95% confidence limit on the mean is compared to the comparison level. Air toxics for which this upper confidence limit is near or below the noncancer-based comparison level (i.e., those for which longer-term average concentration estimates are below a long-term health-related reference concentration) are generally of low concern and will generally be considered a low priority for follow-up activity. Pollutants for which the 95% confidence limits extend appreciably above the noncancer-based comparison level are fully discussed below and may be considered a priority for follow-up activity if indicated in light of the full set of information available for the pollutant and the site.
- For lead, we set the noncancer-based comparison level equal to the level of the recently revised national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). It is important to note that the NAAQS for lead is a 3-month rolling average of lead in total suspended particles. Mean levels for the monitoring data collected in this initiative that indicate the potential for a 3-month average above the level of the standard will be considered a priority for consideration of follow-up actions such as siting of a NAAQS monitor in the area.

In developing or identifying these comparison levels, we have given priority to use of relevant and appropriate air standards and EPA risk assessment guidance and precedents. These levels are based upon health effects information, exposure concentrations and risk estimates developed and assessed by EPA, the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the California EPA. These agencies recognize the need to account for potential differences in sensitivity or susceptibility of different groups (e.g., asthmatics) or lifestyles/ages (e.g., young children or the elderly) to a particular pollutant's effects so that the resulting comparison levels are relevant for these potentially sensitive groups as well as the broader population.

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<sup>17</sup> EPA defines the RfC as “an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a continuous inhalation exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious effects during a lifetime. It can be derived from a NOAEL, LOAEL, or benchmark concentration, with uncertainty factors generally applied to reflect limitations of the data used. Generally used in EPA's noncancer health assessments.” [http://www.epa.gov/ncea/iris/help\\_gloss.htm#r](http://www.epa.gov/ncea/iris/help_gloss.htm#r)

**Appendix B. National Air Toxics Trends Stations Measurements (2004-2008).<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b># Samples Analyzed</b>	<b>% Detections</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Arithmetic Mean<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Geometric Mean</b>	<b>5th Percentile</b>	<b>25th Percentile</b>	<b>50th Percentile</b>	<b>75th Percentile</b>	<b>95th Percentile</b>
Hexavalent Chromium	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	4,233	66%	2.97	0.03	0.03	ND	ND	0.01	0.04	0.13
Acetaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	6,401	100%	92.78	1.87	1.40	0.41	0.86	1.42	2.34	4.48
Formaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	6,403	100%	91.50	3.09	2.22	0.51	1.35	2.32	3.92	7.65
Propionaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	4,330	93%	5.53	0.28	0.22	ND	0.13	0.21	0.35	0.77

 Key Pollutant

ND No results of this chemical were registered by the laboratory analytical equipment.

<sup>a</sup> The summary statistics in this table represent the range of actual daily HAP measurement values taken at NATTS sites from 2004 through 2008. These data were extracted from AQS in summer 2008 and 2009. During the time period of interest, there were 28 sites measuring VOCs, carbonyls, metals, and hexavalent chromium. We note that some sites did not sample for particular pollutant types during the initial year of the NATTS Program, which was 2004. Most of the monitoring stations in the NATTS network are located such that they are not expected to be impacted by single industrial sources. The concentrations typically measured at NATTS sites can thus provide a comparison point useful to considering whether concentrations measured at a school are likely to have been influenced by a significant nearby industrial source, or are more likely to be attributable to emissions from many small sources or to transported pollution from another area. For example, concentrations at a school above the 75th percentile may suggest that a nearby industrial source is affecting air quality at the school.

<sup>b</sup> In calculations involving non-detects (ND), a value of zero is used.

## **Appendix C. Analysis of Other (non-key) Air Toxics Monitored at the School and Multiple-pollutant Considerations.**

At each school, monitoring has been targeted to get information on a limited set of key hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).<sup>18</sup> These pollutants are the primary focus of the monitoring activities at a school and a priority for us based on our emissions, modeling and other information. In analyzing air samples for these key pollutants, we have also obtained results for some other pollutants that are routinely included with the same test method. Our consideration of the data collected for these additional HAPs is described in the first section below. In addition to evaluating monitoring results for individual pollutants, we also considered the potential for cumulative impacts from multiple pollutants as described in the second section below (see Table C-1).

### **Other Air Toxics (HAPs)**

- Do the monitoring data indicate elevated levels of any other air toxics or hazardous air pollutant (HAPs) that pose significant long-term health concerns?
  - Longer-term concentration estimates for the other HAPs monitored are below their long-term comparison levels.
  - For the two pollutants with cancer-based comparison levels (formaldehyde and acetaldehyde), the longer-term concentration estimate for formaldehyde is more than 2-fold lower, and for acetaldehyde is more than 10-fold lower.<sup>19</sup>
  - Additionally each individual measurement for these pollutants is below the individual sample (short-term) screening level developed for considering potential short-term exposures for that pollutant.<sup>20</sup>

### **Additional Information on Two HAPs:**

- The two HAPs mentioned above (formaldehyde and acetaldehyde) may occur in the air at this school as a result of several different sources, including cars and trucks and the exhaust of other gasoline-powered engines. Because these types of sources are found almost everywhere where there are people, these pollutants are commonly elevated in

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<sup>18</sup> Section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act identifies 189 hazardous air pollutants, three of which have subsequently been removed from this list. These pollutants are the focus of regulatory actions involving stationary sources described by CAA section 112 and are distinguished from the six pollutants for which criteria and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) are developed as described in section 108. One of the criteria pollutants, lead, is also represented as lead compounds on the HAP list.

<sup>19</sup> For pollutants with cancer-based comparison levels, a 10-fold difference indicates longer-term estimates below continuous (24 hr/day, 7 days/wk) lifetime exposure concentrations associated with  $10^{-5}$  excess cancer risk.

<sup>20</sup> The comparison levels and their use is summarized on the web site and described in detail in *Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Activity (2009), Uses of Health Effects Information in Evaluating Sample Results*.

urban areas across the country, and EPA has identified them as a national priority for reductions in the air in communities across the country.<sup>21</sup>

- The first HAP mentioned above is formaldehyde. The mean and 95 percent upper bound on the mean for formaldehyde are approximately 29-37% of the cancer-based comparison level. A review of information available at other sites nationally shows that the mean concentration of formaldehyde at this site is at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (and below the mean) of samples collected from 2004 to 2008 (the most recently compiled period) at the NATTS sites (Appendix B).
- The second HAP mentioned above is acetaldehyde. The mean and 95 percent upper bound on the mean for acetaldehyde are approximately 3-4% of the cancer-based comparison level. A review of information available at other sites nationally shows that the mean concentration of acetaldehyde at this site is between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile (and below the mean) of samples collected from 2004 to 2008 (the most recently compiled period) at the NATTS sites (Appendix B).

### **Multiple Pollutants**

As described in the main body of the report and background materials, this initiative and the associated analyses are focused on investigation of key pollutants for each school that were identified by previous analyses. This focused design does not provide for the consideration of combined impacts of pollutants or stressors other than those monitored in this project. Broader analyses and those involving other pollutants may be the focus of other EPA activities.<sup>22</sup>

In our consideration of the potential for impacts from key pollutants at the monitored schools, we have also considered the potential for other monitored pollutants to be present at levels that in combination with the key pollutant levels contribute to an increased potential for cumulative impacts. This was done in cases where estimates of longer-term concentrations for any non-key HAPs are within an order of magnitude of their comparison levels even if these pollutant levels fall below the comparison levels. This analysis is summarized below.

- Do the data collected for the air toxics monitored indicate the potential for other monitored pollutants to be present at levels that in combination with the key pollutant levels indicate an increased potential for cumulative impacts of significant concern (e.g., that might warrant further investigation)?
  - The data collected for the key and other air toxics and the associated longer-term concentration estimates were below levels of significant concern for cumulative health risk from these pollutants. However, these results do indicate the influence of multiple pollutants (formaldehyde and acetaldehyde) that may occur in the air at this school as a result of several different sources, including cars and trucks and the exhaust of other gasoline-powered engines. Because these types of sources are found almost everywhere where there are people, these pollutants are commonly elevated in

<sup>21</sup> Additional information is available at <http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/mobile.html> and <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/toxics.htm>.

<sup>22</sup> General information on additional air pollutants is available at <http://www.epa.gov/air/airpollutants.html>.

urban areas across the country, and EPA has identified them as a national priority for reductions in the air in communities across the country.<sup>21</sup>

- The only HAPs monitored whose longer-term concentration estimates are more than ten percent of their lowest comparison levels are formaldehyde and acetaldehyde. These comparison levels for these pollutants are based on different types of risk, although as a conservative screening consideration, it can be seen that when aggregated together, the upper bounds of their longer-term concentration estimates comprise less than 100% of the lowest comparison levels.

**Table C-1. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School - Other Monitored Pollutant Analysis.**

Parameter	Units	Mean of Measurements <sup>a</sup>	95% Confidence Interval on the Mean	Long-term Comparison Level <sup>b</sup>	
				Cancer-Based <sup>c</sup>	Noncancer-Based <sup>d</sup>
<i>Non-Key HAPs with mean greater than 10% of its lowest comparison level</i>					
Formaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	2.32	1.68 - 2.96	8	9.8
Acetaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.50	1.07 - 1.92	45	9
<i>Non-Key HAPs with mean lower than 10% of its lowest comparison level</i>					
Propionaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.22	0.16 - 0.29	NA	8

µg/m<sup>3</sup> micrograms per cubic meter

NA Not applicable

<sup>a</sup> Mean of measurements is the average of all sample results which include actual measured values. If no chemical was registered, then a value of zero is used when calculating the mean.

<sup>b</sup> Details regarding these values are in the technical report, Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Activity (2009) Uses of Health Effects Information in Evaluating Sample Results.

<sup>c</sup> Air toxics for which the upper 95% confidence limit on the mean concentration is above this level will be fully discussed in the text and may be considered a priority for potential follow-up activities, if indicated in light of the full set of information available for the site. Findings of the upper 95% confidence limit below 1% of the comparison level (i.e., where the upper 95% confidence limit is below the corresponding 1-in-1-million cancer risk based concentration) are generally considered a low priority for follow-up activity. Situations where the summary statistics for a pollutant are below this comparison level but above 1% of this level are fully discussed in the text of the report.

<sup>d</sup> Air toxics for which the upper 95% confidence limit on the mean concentration are near or below the noncancer-based comparison level are generally of low concern and will generally be considered a low priority for follow-up activity. Pollutants for which the 95% confidence limits extend appreciably above the noncancer-based comparison level are fully discussed in the school-specific report and may be considered a priority for follow-up activity, if indicated in light of the full set of information available for the site.

**Appendix D. Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School Pollutant Concentrations.**

Parameter	Units	8/29/2009	9/4/2009	10/4/2009	10/10/2009	10/16/2009	10/22/2009	10/28/2009	11/3/2009	11/15/2009	11/21/2009	11/27/2009	12/3/2009	12/9/2009	12/15/2009	Sample Screening Level <sup>a</sup>
Hexavalent Chromium	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	ND	ND	ND	--	--	ND	ND	0.0099	0.0327	ND	0.0156	ND	ND	ND	580
Formaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	4.03	--	1.54	0.930	2.19	1.36	2.38	2.75	2.67	--	3.18	2.20	--	--	50
Acetaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.44	--	0.934	0.613	2.49	1.01	1.40	2.27	1.45	--	2.06	1.31	--	--	90
Propionaldehyde	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.383	--	0.15	0.10	0.21	0.14	0.21	0.297	0.242	--	0.32	0.19	--	--	80

Key Pollutant

ng/m<sup>3</sup> nanograms per cubic meter

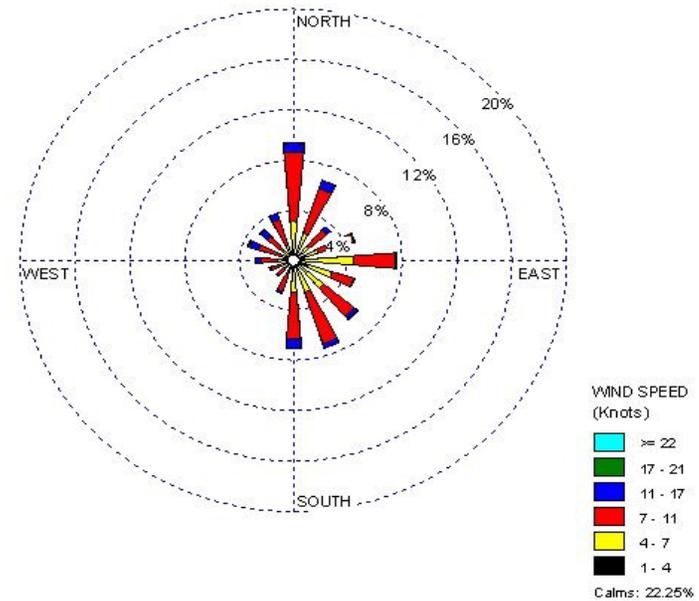
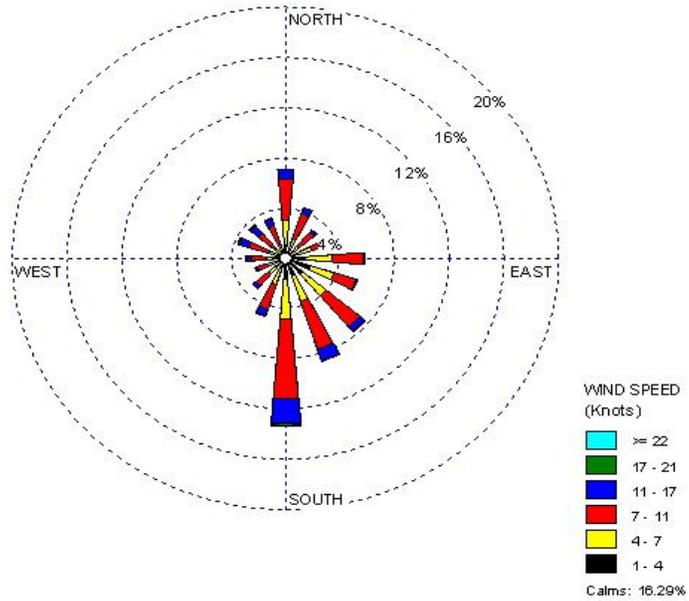
µg/m<sup>3</sup> micrograms per cubic meter

-- No sampling for this chemical took place on this day.

ND No results of this chemical were registered by the laboratory analytical equipment.

<sup>a</sup> The comparison levels and their use is summarized on the web site and described in detail in Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Activity (2009), "Uses of Health Effects Information in Evaluating Sample Results." These short-term screening levels are based on consideration of exposure all day, every day over a period ranging up to at least a couple of weeks, and longer for some pollutants.

## Appendix E. Windrose for Shreveport Regional Airport NWS Station.



<sup>1</sup> Shreveport Regional Airport NWS Station (WBAN 13957) is 4.62 miles from Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary School.