

RESOURCES & REFERENCES

Here are some helpful tips to address any environmental health issue:

- Ask at the next PTA or other parent group meeting. If there is no local PTA unit or parent association, create one!
- Ask if your school has a committee and a plan to address environmental concerns. If not, ask a group below for help.
- To find out if your school follows all federal and state regulations, policies, and building codes, contact an expert national or state group listed below. **National:** Beyond Pesticides, www.beyondpesticides.org, CHEJ: www.chej.org, Healthy Schools Network: www.healthyschools.org, NEA's Health Information Network/Healthy Schools Caucus: www.neahealthinfo.org, National PTA: www.pta.org, EPA: www.epa.gov/schools. **State:** CA: www.calasthma.org, www.pesticidereform.org, CT: www.canarycommittee.com, IL: www.healthyschoolscampaign.org, MA: www.masscosh.org/healthyschools, ME: www.miaqc.org, NJ: www.njwec.org, NY: www.healthyschools.org, OR: www.orcouncil.org, WA: www.iceh.org, and DC: www.21csf.org.
- **Write a letter to Congress** in support of healthier schools. For a sample letter: <http://www.capwiz.com/npta2/home>.

- 1. US Environmental Protection Agency**, www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources/html. **National Heart Lung & Blood Institute**, *How Asthma-Friendly Is Your School?* www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/asthma/friendhi.html. Healthy Schools Network, *Molds At School, Parent Guide to School IAQ*, www.healthyschools.org, 518-462-0632. **Community Action to Fight Asthma**, www.calasthma.org, 510-622-4444.
2. For recommended ventilation standards, contact your state education agency. **Healthy Schools Network:** *School Health and Safety Committees, Parent Guide to School IAQ, National Technical Supplement/Environmental Action Guide*, www.healthyschools.org, 518-462-0632. **New Jersey Work Environment Council**, *NJEA Health and Safety Checklist: Back to School Walkthrough*, www.njwec.org, 609-695-7100, **US EPA**, *IAQ Tools For Schools*, www.epa.gov/toolsforschools
- 3. Asthma Regional Council:** www.asthmaregionalcouncil.org. **National PTA:** www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/healthsafety/hsocairpollution.asp. **US EPA**, www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.
- 4. Center for Health, Environment & Justice:** www.chej.org, 703-237-2249. **Healthy Schools Network**, *Renovation and Construction Guide* (checklist for administrators): www.healthyschools.org, 518-462-0632.
- 5. Oregon Toxics Alliance:** www.oregontoxics.org, 541-465-8860. **Center for Health, Environment & Justice:** *Green Flag Schools Program*, www.greenflagschools.org, 703-237-2249, ext. 21. **Healthy Schools Network:** *Healthier Cleaning and Maintenance: Practice & Products for Schools*, www.healthyschools.org, 518-462-0632.
- 6. Beyond Pesticides:** www.beyondpesticides.org/states, 202-543-5450. **California Safe Schools:** Los Angeles Unified Integrated Pest Management Policy, a national model as the first IPM Policy to embrace the precautionary principle, www.calisafe.org/policy.htm.
- 7. Massachusetts Healthy Schools Network c/o Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health**, www.masscosh.org/healthyschoolsnews3.htm, 617-825-SAFE. **Center for Health, Environment & Justice**, *Green Flag Schools Program*, www.greenflagschools.org, 703-237-2249, ext. 21.
- 8. Safe Tables Our Priority**, (S.T.O.P.): *School Food Safety Initiative*, www.safetables.org, 802-863-0555. **Partnership for Food Safety Education:** <http://www.fightbac.org/main.cfm>.
- 9. US EPA**, *Consumer Advisory*, www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/schoolanddccc.htm, 800-426-4791, Lead Service Line Water Testing, 202-787-2732. **Learning Disabilities Association of America:** www.healthychildrenproject.org.
- 10. Healthy Kids:** *The Key to Basics*, www.healthy-kids.info, 617-965-9637. Healthy Schools Network, *Protecting Vulnerable Students in Sick Schools*, www.healthyschools.org, 518-482-0632.

Parent, teachers, school officials, and health and scientific experts are worried about the rise in children's health and learning disorders such as asthma, autism, learning disabilities, and some cancers. Chemicals in our environment can contribute to these health problems. We must heed early warning signs and prevent toxic exposures, illnesses, and injuries to children by taking a precautionary approach. See www.besafenet.com for specific issue brochures.

- ✓ Sign on to the **BE SAFE Precautionary Platform** at www.besafenet.org. Help send a message to the White House to support a precautionary approach to protect children's health.
- ✓ Sign on to the **Coalition for Healthier Schools Position Statement** at www.healthyschools.org to support national, state, and local reforms to protect children's health and to create healthier school facilities.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK, INC.: helping parents, communities, schools, and organizations with award-winning guides, reports, and technical assistance since 1996.

BE SAFE: www.besafenet.org, 703-237-2249

Coalition for Healthier Schools: www.healthyschools.org, 212-482-0204, 518-462-0632