

2011 YEARBOOK



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
NETWORK

Tough Time To Be a Child: Parents and Taxpayers Should Be Enraged

(Washington, DC, May 2011)

National Coalition for Healthier Schools advocates are still rejoicing over the White House's announcement of EPA's Healthy Schools Initiative last year. In January 2011, urging swifter federal action, the National Association of School Nurses released preliminary results from a survey of nearly 400 of its members: 40% reported knowing children affected by pollutants in schools; over 75% said schools had no indoor air quality plans; and only 6% said an outside agency assisted the local school.

"Parents and taxpayers should be enraged," says NASN Executive Director Amy Garcia, R.N.

"Children continue to miss school because of illnesses triggered by indoor pollutants. Attendance is

strongly correlated with school success.... US EPA must complete work on school environments mandated by Congress." The survey also touched on issues such as drinking water, sanitation, pest control, and chemical spills that EPA must tackle in state guidelines and voluntary grants. Added Healthy Schools Network's executive Claire Barnett, "Parents are stunned when they discover schools know about environmental factors affecting their child and have done little or nothing. Then they learn that no agency responds." For full story see, www.healthyschools.org/NASN-HSN_survey-press_Jan_2011.pdf

The federal budget impacts the ability of federal or state agencies to respond. Sensitive to calls for spending cuts, the White House is

proposing to sustain a commitment to EPA's Healthy Schools Initiative in FY 12, add funds to EPA's Office of Children's Health, but eliminate EPA's flagship School Indoor Air Quality program—programs slashed in FY 07-08. At the same time, the federal CDC is cutting its asthma program by half, and eliminating the Division of Adolescent and School Health. Asthma is still the leading cause of absenteeism. Recent studies reported schools filled with asthma triggers and pediatric asthma hospitalizations tripling in the school year. See studies at www.nationalhealthyschoolsday.org/mediaKit/Must-Read_Research_Studies.pdf

"It's a tough time to be a child," said Barnett during congressional visits, urging the budget ax not fall on high risk learners.

Donate Now

www.HealthySchools.org • 518-462-0632 • 202-543-7555

National Coalition For Healthier Schools

Healthy Schools 2015—Sustaining Momentum In Tough Times

Twenty-five leaders from nineteen nongovernment groups of the national Coalition for Healthier Schools met in April in a facilitated session to discuss EPA's FY 11-12 Healthy Schools Initiative and to map collaborations for sustaining the congressionally authorized child-health initiative through tough times. Meeting space was provided by the National Education Association – Health Information Network at NEA's Washington, DC headquarters.

Joining the Coalition's leadership over a working lunch were seven officials: from US EPA's Office of Children's Health (3), EPA's Indoor Environments Division (2), and one each from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health and from the Department of Education. Participants discussed the agencies' resources and challenges in context of the federal executive order on risks to children's environmental health and in context of EPA's mandate to address indoor environments with first-ever federal guidelines.

Collaboratively planned by Coalition members and coordinated by Healthy Schools Network, the two-day session included Hill visits and a reception at the Council of Educational Facility Planners School Building Week awards event. The Coalition is deeply grateful to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the NEA-Health Information Network, and the American Federation of Teachers for sponsoring the project. The final report is expected in June.

Denise Bowles,
American
Federation of
State, County
and Municipal
Employees
International
Industrial
Hygienist



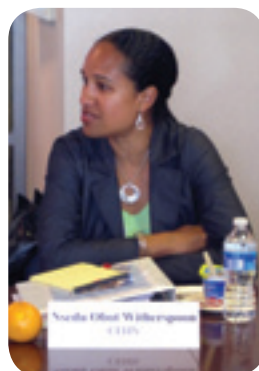
Kara Belle,
Office of
Children's
Health
Protection
Public Liaison



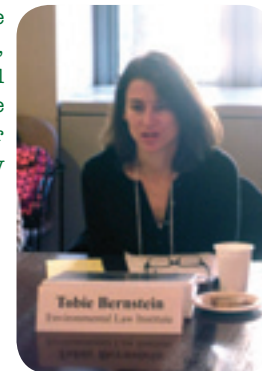
Julia Earl,
Preventing
Harm Minnesota
Executive Director



Nsedu Obot
Witherspoon,
Children's
Environmental
Health Network
Executive
Director



Tobie
Bernstein,
Environmental
Law Institute
Senior
Attorney



William Orr,
Collaborative
for High
Performance
Schools
Executive
Director



Carolyn
Smith-Evans,
NEA Healthy
Schools Caucus
Co-Founder



Tolle Graham,
MassCOSH, MA
Healthy Schools
Network, and
National Coalition
for Occupational
Safety and Health



Advocates for EPA's Healthy Schools Initiative meet US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staff (L to R): Mollie Coleman, Healthy Schools Network; Grant Cope, EPW staff; Bettina Poirer, EPW Director; Lisa Sparrow, Association of School Business Officials - International; and Don Gillmore, Chairman, Council of Educational Facility Planners -International. Missing from photo: Mary Lou Embry, National Association of School Nurses. April 2011.

Healthy Schools Heroes Award Program

2010

Bob Axelrad, EPA Indoor Environments Division
Denise Bowles, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

Chip Halverson,
 NEA Member Activist for Healthy Schools

Kenneth Olden, PhD,
 Founding Dean of School of Public Health at City University of New York

Jennie Young, National Education Association - Health Information Network

2008

David Carpenter, MD, University at Albany

Philip J. Landrigan, MD,
 Mount Sinai School of Medicine

United States Senator Frank Lautenberg
 (D-New Jersey)

Frederica Perera, PhD,
 Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

2007

Charles Eley,
 Collaborative for High Performance Schools

Tolle Graham,
 MassCOSH/MA Healthy Schools Network

Joellen Lawson, Connecticut Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools

Carolyn Smith Evans,
 NEA-Healthy Schools Caucus

Robert Sweeny, NYS Assemblyman

Ramona Trovato,
 founding Director, EPA Office of Children's Health

Barbara Worth, Council of Education Facility Planners International

2006

Marcia Bystryn, NY League of Conservation Voters

Helena Rose Durst, The Durst Organization

Richard Iannuzzi, NYS United Teachers

Robert Jackson, NYC Councilman

2004

Katherine Kennedy, Esq.,
 outgoing HSN Board President

Peter R. Smith, NYS Energy Research Development Authority

Charles Szuberla, NYS Education Department

2001

United States Senator

Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-New York)

2000

Steven Engelbright, NYS Assemblyman

Thomas DiNapoli, NYS Assemblyman

Healthy Schools Network Honors

2001

US EPA's Region 2
 Environmental Quality Award
 (for the Healthy Schools/
 Healthy Kids Clearinghouse)

2001

American Library
 Association Award,
 with the Natural Resources
 Defense Council
 (for the Green Squad website)



2005

EPA's Office of Children's
 Health Protection
 (for Clearinghouse
 publications)



2007

Collaborative for High
 Performance Schools'
 National Green Apple
 Award for Advancing
 IAQ in School Design



2007

US EPA's Indoor
 Environments Division's
 National Special Achievement
 Award for IAQ in Schools

2008

Pediatric Environmental
 Health Specialty Units'
 Partnership Recognition

National Healthy Schools Day 2011— our most successful event yet!

Thousands of parents, educators, children, and activists participate in our annual event promoting clean, green, and healthy schools



EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson at press conference for National Healthy Schools Day 2011. L to R: Jimmy Sweeney, Principal, Rosemont Elementary School; Maryland Parent Veronika Carella; Shirley Schantz, National Association of School Nurses Director of Training; Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator; Claire Barnett, Healthy Schools Network Executive Director; James Song, Director of Facilities Management, Montgomery County Public Schools. April 11, 2011

With varied activities and events across the country, our ninth National Healthy Schools Day was a rousing success. Sixty-nine events took place in 24 states and Washington, DC, celebrating and promoting healthy indoor environments in schools.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson kicked the day off at Rosemont Elementary School in Gaithersburg, Maryland, thanking participants for their work to “ensure that the places where our children go each day to learn are indeed healthy, vibrant environments.” Jackson—the parent of a child with asthma—joined other participants in

highlighting simple steps that parents, teachers, and administrators can take to improve air quality at school.

Events included school walk-throughs, conferences, training sessions, award presentations, classroom lessons, and a video contest, on topics ranging from asthma to pesticides to clutter control. *The Huffington Post* featured “Little Things Can Fix a Big Problem on National Healthy Schools Day,” an article by Healthy Schools Network’s executive director, Claire Barnett, and numerous other Internet, television, and print outlets advertised and covered the events. The governors

of Alabama, Connecticut, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Washington issued proclamations, as did many local governments. And for a second year the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joined in support.

National Healthy Schools Day is an annual event that highlights the importance of healthy school environments. Supported under a cooperative agreement with US EPA, it is run by Healthy Schools Network in cooperation with the Council of Educational Facility Planners. Stay tuned for the 10th annual Healthy Schools Day 2012 announcement.



“Every child deserves the chance to learn in a healthy school environment, and every parent deserves the peace of mind that comes with knowing their child is safe and healthy. Each day a child misses school because of a health problem is a day lost from learning. It is so important that the federal government, states, tribal nations and school districts team up to clean up and green up America’s schools.”

Arne Duncan
U.S. Secretary of Education

“We are pleased to join the Healthy Schools Network and its partners in sponsoring the 2011 National Healthy Schools Days to recognize the need for healthy indoor air in schools. CDC encourages everyone to use National Healthy Schools Day to promote dialogue about indoor air quality and healthier schools across the nation through building design, proper ventilation, mold control, integrated pest management, green cleaning and the use of low-emission products.”

Christopher J. Portier, PhD , Director
National Center for Environmental Health/Agency
for Toxic Substances of Disease Registry

“Today is about making sure our kids are able to breathe clean air in the places they go to learn each day. Asthma and other respiratory illnesses threaten children’s health and cause them to miss important school time. There are simple ways to ensure clean air in our classrooms, and National Healthy Schools Day is about bringing people together to make that happen.”

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

“Over the 22 years I have been the Medical Director of an Occupational Health Center I have evaluated several hundred patients who work in schools... The most common problems include exposures from renovation and construction work, cleaners, chemicals/dusts from classes like art and shop, and molds... the workers we see almost uniformly tell us that kids are also suffering from the same symptoms as the workers.”

Michael Lax, MD, Medical Director,
Central NY Occupational Health Clinical Center

“A healthy school is important because kids are our future. My district told me to make my child stay in school even though he was very ill, but finally I took him out to study at home. The school told me I had to buy his texts and do his tutoring, so he’s still trying to pass his GEDs. The school gave up, but we did not. Where is public health for children?”

Nicole Vargas
Parent from Roswell, New Mexico

For full list of activities and statements of support visit: www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org



Alabama State Senator Vivian Figures and Healthy Schools Advocate Nancy Swan with Alabama Governor Robert Bentley as he signs Proclamation declaring April 11, 2011 National Healthy Schools Day



Proclamation presented to Jeanne Black, an advocate for healthy schools, by Senator Dale Schultz on behalf of the members of the entire Wisconsin State Senate in recognition of National Healthy Schools Day, April 11, 2011

Highlights: Healthy Schools Network & Coalition for Healthier Schools

Healthy Schools Network coordinates and collaborates with our city, state, and national partners in the national advocacy Coalition

1992

Parent Claire Barnett delivers Westport (NY) Central School PTO call for healthy school environments at New York State Board of Regents hearing

1994

Regents' advisory committee report and recommendations issued

1995

Healthy Schools Network's organizational meeting

Regents adopt guiding principles and recommendations in committee report

1996

Healthy Schools/Healthy Kids Clearinghouse established

\$125m secured in New York State bond act for clean air in schools

New York City healthy schools working group convened

1997

NYS enacts comprehensive regulations on school indoor environments

Clearinghouse produces first-ever Parent Guide to Indoor Air

Network begins helping multiple out-of-state groups create environmental health reform coalitions

1998

Healthy Schools Network incorporated

1999

Clearinghouse publishes first-ever user-friendly Guide to Green Cleaning

National Board of Advisers appointed

2000

Network leads meeting with US Secretary of Education Riley

President Clinton cites Network survey of school nurses in New York in message

to Congress; \$1.2 billion appropriated for school health and safety repairs

2001

First meeting of Coalition for Healthier Schools convened by Network's board and advisors

Network helps New York City parent associations secure cleanups of schools impacted by pollution from World Trade Center site

Calls to Clearinghouse prompt federal CDC investigation of outbreak of rashes affecting 1000 children in 100 schools in 27 states

2002

Schools of Ground Zero report co-published with American Public Health Association, reports children affected by air pollutants

US Senate Environment Committee holds first-ever hearing on school environments

Federal Healthy and High Performance Schools Act signed, authorizing Education to publish study on school environments and children's health



Network's New York Victories

1995

State Board of Regents adopts guiding principles and selected recommendations from 1994 committee report urged by Westport (NY) Central School PTO and later scores of parents and groups statewide

1996

\$125m secured in State Bond Act to replace 300 polluting coal-fired boilers in public schools

1997

State enacts comprehensive regulations on school facilities (IAQ, IPM, renovations, inspections)

1999

State commits to multiyear funding pool for school repairs

2000

State law requires prior notice of pesticide use in schools

2002

State law bans arsenic-treated wood playground equipment

2003

State law bans elemental mercury in schools

2004

State Education Department and State Energy Research and Development Authority co-sign agreement to develop high performance school design standards

State law bans paradichlorobenzene deodorizers in schools

2005

State embraces executive order and state law requires all state agencies and K-12 schools to use green cleaning products

New York City law requires "build green" for school construction, impacting \$15b five-year facility plan.

2003

First annual National Healthy Schools Day
 Online NewsSlice debuts, offering news to growing healthy schools community
 Network publishes National Healthy Schools Training Binder to shape development of new state coalitions

2004

Coalition for Healthier Schools issues first national policy position statement
 US Department of Education publishes first-ever study on children's environmental health in schools

2005

New York State embraces executive order and enacts nation's first state law requiring state agencies and all public and private schools to use green cleaning products
 Post Hurricane Katrina, Coalition issues call to Congress for child-protective emergency plans and clean ups

2006

Coalition annual meeting results in creation of National Collaborative Work Group on Green Cleaning and Chemical Policy Reform in Schools
 EPA awards four-year grant to Healthy Schools Network to coordinate National Healthy Schools Day
 Coalition publishes *Lessons Learned*, with state-by-state data and parent stories, estimating 60% of school children at risk

2007

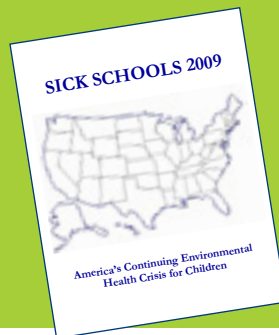
Coalition secures restoration of funding to EPA for indoor air in schools
 Federal High Performance Green Buildings Act enacted, authorizing EPA to issue first-ever guidelines on school indoor environments and school siting, and to offer state agency grants

2008

Work Group on Green Cleaning opens new website and training tools, issues model state bill text to offset chemical industry lobbying
 White paper on school environments distributed to Obama Transition Team

2009

Coalition for Healthier Schools briefs new agency leaders at EPA, CDC, and Education
 EPA launches landmark project to monitor air toxics outside schools; Coalition calls for tracking pollutants indoors
 White House convenes Interagency Task Force on Environmental Health Risks to Children, co-chaired by EPA and HHS



Coalition publishes *Sick Schools 2009: America's Continuing Environmental Health Crisis for Children*, with state-by-state data and policy profiles

2010

EPA's School Air Toxics report recommends tracking pollutants indoors
 President Obama's FY 11 budget calls for Healthy Schools Initiative at EPA
 Work Group on Green Cleaning meets with EPA's Design for Environment program, urging major reforms
 Network documents lack of children's health protection in public health advisories post-BP oil spill
 Work Group on Green Cleaning presents peer-reviewed panel on "greenwashing" at American Public Health Association convention, including analysis of chemical industry lobbying in ten states

2011

National Caucus for Environmental Legislators distributes the Work Group on Green Cleaning's model state bill text
 National Association of School Nurses issues preliminary results of survey: 40% of school nurses know children affected by pollutants in schools
 Coalition holds expert panel brainstorming session with 32 leaders from 19 NGOs and three federal agencies
 Ninth annual National Healthy Schools Day led by press conference with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson (see page 4 for details)
 President Obama's FY 12 budget sustains EPA's Healthy Schools Initiative but proposes to slash CDC's and EPA's asthma, indoor air, and health education programs



NYC Mayor Bloomberg signs "build green" city law

2006

State law requires Advisory Council on Children's Environmental Health to recommend new protections

2007

State Education Department issues voluntary high performance schools design standards (NY-CHPS); New York City School Construction Authority issues "Green Guide" to meet green-build mandate

2008

Governor's executive order on green procurement establishes interagency council

2009

State convenes Advisory Council on Children

2010

Governor urges Regents to adopt state's green procurement standards for K-12 schools
 State law bans ornamental use of herbicides outside schools and child care centers
 State law reduces special fees for disposal of hazardous materials by public schools
 New York City Department of Education directs schools to comply with state law on green cleaning products

Donate Now...
because every child needs a healthy school

2005-2008

State appropriates over \$1.5m to expand pediatric environmental health services



HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK

773 Madison Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

2011 Yearbook

www.HealthySchools.org

www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org

www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org



Healthy Schools Network



HealthySchoolsN



Printed on Neenah Environment 100% post consumer recycled fiber paper with soy-based ink

Experts Map Healthy Schools 2015



Coalition for Healthier Schools' leaders met for two days in April and heard from federal agency staff. At head of table (L to R): Don Yu, Senior Counsel, US Department of Education; Peter Grevatt, Director, EPA Office of Children's Health Protection; Janet McCabe, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation; and

Mary Jean Brown, Chief, Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch, federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – National Center for Environmental Health. Each addressed key programs, resources, and collaborative opportunities. See page 2 for story and additional pictures.

Donate Now

www.HealthySchools.org • 518-462-0632 • 202-543-7555