Healthy Schools

IAQ | Healthy Learning Environments | Integrated Pest Management | Green Cleaning | Absenteeism | Natural Lighting | Respiratory Illnesses and Headaches

Providing students and school staff with a healthy learning and working environment is an important component of a sustainable school. Every day, 55 million children in the United States attend school. Too often, their school buildings have poor indoor and outdoor air quality, hazardous chemicals and other unhealthy conditions that make students, staff and faculty sick and impair their ability to learn and work.

On average, one out of ten children is affected by asthma, and asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for close to 13 million missed days per school year. Often times, asthma and respiratory related illnesses can be exacerbated by pollutants such as chemicals, cleaning supplies, pesticides and exhaust from idling buses and automobiles.

A *Healthy School* is the responsibility of everyone, including school staff and administrators, students and community members. While student involvement is key to the Eco-Schools USA program, some issues addressed by this pathway require the expertise and training of facility managers and administrators to amend. We provide as many tools and resources as possible to assist students in working on these complex issues.

Driving Questions

- ✓ How can we, as pest management technicians, work with the school district's director of facilities to convert to an organic pest management system?

- ✓ How can we, as members of the community, provide the school board with the evidence needed to improve health conditions at our school?

- ✓ How can we, as school nurses, work with the students, staff and faculty to decrease the numbers of days the school community is absent?

- ✓ How can we, as environmental science and protection technicians, raise awareness about toxins in and around the learning environment that contribute to ill health?

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Top 10 Tips | Fast Facts | Standards Alignment | Sample Action Plan | Healthy Schools Audit | Lesson Links