

RESOURCES & REFERENCES

Here are some helpful tips to address any environmental hazards:

- Raise the issue with your PTA or another school parent group. If there is no local PTA school unit or parent association, create one!
- See if your school has a committee and a plan to address environmental problems. If not, contact a group below for assistance.
- To determine if your school follows all applicable federal and state regulations, policies and building codes, refer to the national and state groups listed below. *National:* Beyond Pesticides, www.beyondpesticides.org, CHEJ: www.chej.org, Healthy Schools Network (state-by-state agency listings): www.healthyschools.org, NEA's Health Information Network's Healthy Schools Caucus: www.neahealthinfo.org, National PTA: www.pta.org, EPA: www.epa.gov/schools, USD Education: www.edfacilities.org. *State:* CA: 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 environmental initiatives. For a sample letter go to: <http://www.capwiz.com/npta2/home>.

1. United States 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.htm. **Community Action to Fight Asthma**, www.calasthma.org 510-622-4444.

2. For school ventilation standards, contact your state education agency. **Healthy Schools Network: School Health and Safety Committees: How to Promote Child and Adult Environmental Health Protection**, 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, **Environmental Protection Agency: Tools For Schools**, www.epa.gov/toolsforschools/.

3. Asthma Regional Council: www.asthmaregionalcouncil.org. **National PTA:** www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/healthsafety/hsocairpollution.asp/. **Environmental Protection Agency:** www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/.

4. Center for Health, Environment & Justice: www.chej.org, 703-237-2249. **Healthy Schools Network:** 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. Environmental Protection Agency: 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. *"Protecting Vulnerable Students in Sick Schools"* by Ellie Goldberg, **Healthy Schools Network**, www.healthyschools.org, 518-482-0632.

Many parents, teachers, health and scientific experts are worried about the growing trend of childhood diseases, such as asthma and cancer. Studies show chemicals in our environment such as pesticides and chemicals in products contribute to these alarming statistics. We can heed early warning signs, and prevent toxic exposures by taking a precautionary approach. See www.besafenet.com for issue specific 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 policies that protect children's health.