



HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK, INC.

Year in Review News 2016-17

www.HealthySchools.org
www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org
www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org

Happy Fourth of July to all our friends and supporters!

Are you ready to be disruptive?

School's out. If you love your school building, tell us why [here!](#) We want to know what's good or what's not, because everyone tells us their buildings are falling apart. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers rated schools a D+ this year, after a D in 2013.

If your child had a D average over four years, you'd be disruptive, too.

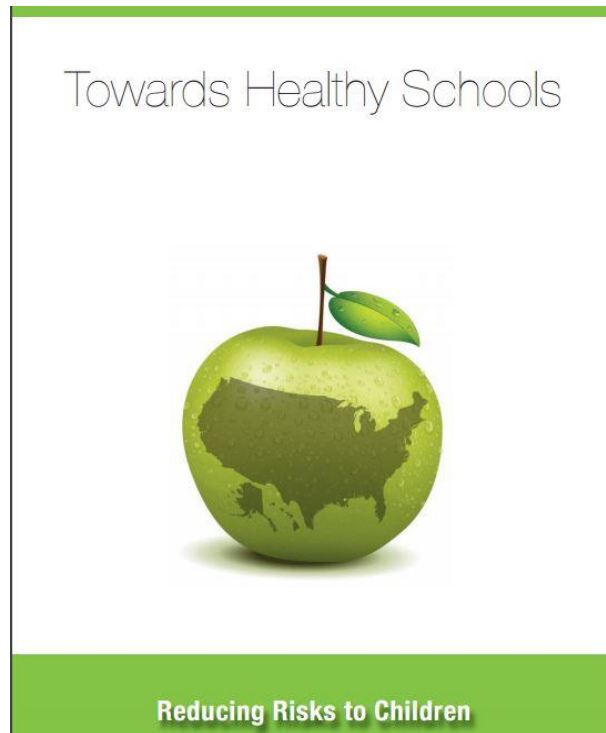
But it's worse than a D: the numbers are in and they show more risks to more schoolchildren*:

- The federal government's *Healthy People 2020* report found schools in 2014 were less active than in 2010 on key problems like Indoor Air, Hazardous Chemicals, and pesticides
- 50,000,000 children in public schools today, more than four years ago
- 26,000,000 children in schools on subsidized meal program, more than four years ago
- 7,000,000 children in special education, more than four years ago
- 9.2% children have asthma, more than four years ago
- - 1.80% drop in median school revenue per student 2012-2013
- 6,000,000 public school personnel, fewer than four years ago
- 100,000 public school buildings, fewer than four years ago

*[*Towards Healthy Schools: Reducing Risks to Children \(2016\)](#)*

The response from the White House? From the candidate came pledges to rebuild America's schools. From the White House are calls for massive cuts to programs that turn out to help mostly children: slash EPA's children's health and schools-related voluntary and regulatory programs; zero out Education funds for children's support services; roll back Medicaid; cut 20% from children's health insurance; return to less-wholesome school food. Going after kids is, well, just sad.

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Let's Be Disruptive: make our kids and schools greater.

We help parents and others. Your continuing [support](#) makes it possible for Healthy Schools Network to help parents and others advocate for kids' health. A sample:

- helped a California mom who was banned from school property for urging protections for Kindergartners walking to school through heavy construction on campus
- challenged National PTA's warm embrace of disinfecting wipes, resulting in NPTA opening its blog to technical comments, and our launch of a new national [guide](#)
- provided information to a Colorado school nurse who found disinfectants were making children and her colleagues sick.

We lead the way with unique conferences, reports, and articles. Your [support](#) allows us to explore issues and solutions, and foster and elevate new advocates. A sample:

- Two important [national conferences](#) broke new ground, engaging 76 staff from 46 federal and state agencies and NGOs on how to protect children at risk or with environmental exposures in schools and childcare. Our work is resulting in new collaborations on new directions, with journal articles and policy studies, including by epidemiologists.
- We published our 4th edition in-depth analysis of all the states, *Towards Healthy Schools: Reducing Risks to Children*. The collaborative report offers new research: interviews with public health officials in eleven states, and news clips documenting school environmental threats. Free online, it has been presented to

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federal agencies, education policy leaders, and shared with the President-elect's Transition Team and members of Congress.



With [your support](#), we will reach our goals:

US EPA FY18: \$1/child to help improve health and learning outcomes

At an invited meeting with the EPA Administrator this spring, we outlined key policies, offered help, and told executive staff that EPA needs \$1/child enrolled in schools and childcare (\$65M) to support EPA's outreach, training grants, symposia, and research and offices for Children, Indoor Air, Water, Toxics, and Research.

- **The big push for EPA:** our pioneering expertise starts with the effect of decayed schools on their most numerous occupants—children. While we support federal funds to rebuild schools, the most critical need is to ensure that educators make smart decisions about caring for existing buildings—and children. Federally, EPA has the leading expertise, honed through years of guidelines, grants, and symposia that engaged over 40,000 participants. We are urging a *just-in-time* expansion of EPA's capacity—enough capacity to **disrupt the neglect** of school facilities and really tackle children's school-based exposures. Your [support](#) will allow us to rally more advocates, partners, and lawmakers.
- **Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017 (HR 2475):** introduced this spring, the bill is a new rallying point for the many advocates working to improve school facilities. We shaped and support key reforms in the bill, such as directing states to inventory conditions of schools, describe the roles of the states' agencies, and adopt policies to protect kids' health. We will continue our support through our national [BACK TO SCHOOL](#) activities in August and beyond.

Advocating change at home: a healthier, greener New York

As a leader in the fight for clean and healthy schools, we are tracking emerging glitches in the nation's first [Safe School Drinking Water Act](#), and comparing New York's results against other states; urging the state to lower the level at which it acts on children with

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elevated blood lead; monitoring how New York carries out a US EPA guideline to advance healthier schools; and urging the state to use the massive data it has—and ignores—to help children with school-based exposures.

A decade ago, we seeded the state's work on green purchasing. This spring, we cheered Governor Cuomo's "[silo busting](#)" leadership in this area which has harnessed 73 agencies into a single force to save money and reduce hazardous chemicals. We also advocate for the "full disclosure" of ingredients in cleaning products and for bans on high-hazard chemicals. [Support our next step](#): getting schools engaged beyond green cleaning.

Be disruptive! Join us in this big and important fight! Our kids depend on us, and we cannot do this work without your support. The generosity of our partners and supporters makes all our continuing efforts possible. [Donate now](#).



This spring, Healthy Schools Network's founder and executive Claire Barnett received a 2017 William K. Reilly Award for national environmental leadership and innovation from the former EPA Administrator at American University.

Visit Healthy Schools at its high-volume websites: www.healthyschools.org, www.cleaningforhealthyschools.org, and www.nationalhealthyschoolsday.org. See Healthy Schools Network's Board of Directors and National Advisers at http://www.healthyschools.org/who_we_are.html

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