



## HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK 2017 Year in Review

12/17

**Our mission:** *to ensure that every child has an environmentally safe and healthy school. And, when they do not, to ensure that there are public health services to prevent or intervene for children with exposures: to lead, pesticides, asbestos, PCBs, hazardous chemicals, and unbreathable indoor air—all of which are common in schools and known to affect health, thinking, and learning.*

**Protecting children from lead poisoning.** With our partners - the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA) and the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) - in December we hosted a groundbreaking workshop, *Eliminating Lead Risks in Schools and Child Care Facilities*, in Washington, DC. Forty representatives from agencies, NGOs, and philanthropy discussed **all sources of lead** (in products, water, and paint) that plague children's learning environments and framed new high-level strategies and actions. Look for our joint report in early 2018.



*(Pictured L-R, Workshop leaders: Nsedu Obot Witherspoon/CEHN, Jeff Jones/HS Network-NY, Gabi Illa/Pew Charitable Trusts, Amy Murphy/facilitator, Rebecca Morley/RWJF, Claire Barnett/HS Network, Maureen Swanson/LDA, Kristie Trousdale/CEHN, Tracy Gregoire, LDA-ME.*

**Three prestigious awards.** We were honored with the *William K. Reilly Award for Environmental Governance and Leadership* from American University, and the *David P. Rall Award for Advocacy in Public Health* from the American Public Health Association in Atlanta, GA (*at left, Barnett accepts award from APHA Board President Thomas Quade*). US EPA also recognized the Network as *Champions for Indoor Air Quality*.



**Leading new work to protect children from toxic exposures.** To generate help for children with school (and childcare)-based environmental exposures, we serve on a national study group hosted by state and territorial epidemiologists, an effort inspired by our 2015 and 2016 conferences on children's health. We also prepared and submitted a policy statement, *Establishing Environmental Public Health Systems for Children*, adopted last month by the influential American Public Health Association.

**Our 2017 call for a federal Children's Initiative and rebuilding America's infrastructure.** We led the development of an influential, widely circulated white paper on upgrading school infrastructure and improving children's environmental health. See the **2017 Call** and our collaborators at [www.HealthySchools.org](http://www.HealthySchools.org). Among the high-level outcomes:

- an invitation from **US EPA Administrator Pruitt**: we focused on EPA's proven research, outreach, and training programs and called for a boost of **\$65 million**—just \$1 per child enrolled in schools (56M) and childcare (9M);
- shaping **Senate and House bills** to authorize the rebuilding of America's schools;
- dozens of educational meetings on **Capitol Hill**, focused on members of appropriations, environment, and health committees.

**Environmental health in New York's schools – strengthening a national model.** To advance the state's **Clean, Green, & Healthy Schools** initiative, we are core members of the statewide steering

*... for children ... health ... environment ... education ... communities ... since 1995 ...*

committee. We are pushing state agencies to *help* local schools over *asking* them to do more on their own. We're also supporting the state's Environmental Protection Fund and its Environmental Health line item used in part for pediatric environmental health services statewide, and calling for DEC to release 40-years-overdue regulations for the "full disclosure" of hazardous chemicals in cleaning products.

**Protecting children from leaded water at school.** In addition to the collaborative lead workshop in early December, we've pursued varied efforts to make school drinking water safer:



- Parent Guide and conference presentations;
- tracking New York's implementation of the law and pushing for improvements reporting;
- urging New York State's Department of Health to adopt the lower federal threshold for child lead poisoning, and to expand water quality laws to out-of-home licensed child care and Head Start programs.
- (pictured left) presenting *Healthy Learning Places for Children: Schools and Water Quality* at a congressional briefing.

These successes were made possible by the generosity of friends like you. Visit [www.healthyschools.org](http://www.healthyschools.org) or click to contribute now →



## **OUR GOALS FOR 2018**

- **Eliminate toxics at school**
  - Ensure that the long-awaited Federal Interagency Strategy to Reduce Lead Poisoning includes ALL sources in schools and in childcare.
  - Expand our collaborations to advance green and healthy products in schools (see [www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org](http://www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org)).
- **Improve New York State's children and healthy schools initiatives.**
- **Champion lead-free school/childcare siting and design standards.**
- **Push for adequate resources** to boost training and assistance for school and childcare leaders, personnel, parents, and communities.
- **Support efforts to rebuild America's school infrastructure.**
- **Expand the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Healthy Schools Day**, April 3, 2018: see our 45 past partners, and activities and media at [www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org](http://www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org).



**Partner with us to reach these goals! Help us keep kids healthy, thinking, and learning at school.**

← Click or donate online at [www.HealthySchools.org](http://www.HealthySchools.org), or send a check to Healthy Schools Network, 773 Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12208.

*Healthy Schools Network is a 501c3 not for profit.*

*Learn more about our Board and staff, history, programs, and awards at [www.HealthySchools.org](http://www.HealthySchools.org), and take a look at our popular blog on [The Huffington Post](http://TheHuffingtonPost.com).*

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