



SM

HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK, INC.

DECEMBER 2016 REPORT

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

Strengthening Children's Health and Learning: Equity and Justice Issues

Every day should be a healthy school day for every child. Healthy Schools Network, founded to protect children from environmental exposures, is pleased to share our 2016 work towards meeting this goal. We thank our friends and partners for developing a new agenda for public health services for children and for new state policies for children in New York State. And we thank our generous donors, whose gifts help us provide direct assistance to parents of children with environmental exposures in schools and to develop and advance new protective policies.

Read on to see how what was accomplished with your support this year.

A Comment on the New Presidential Administration

While the November election results are being dissected and President-elect nominees floated, we push on, deeply aware that families everywhere love and rely on their local schools and child care centers in countless ways. We know there are more PK-12 schools (130,000) and child care centers (110,000) than there are zip codes in the U.S. We also know that schoolhouses are in disrepair, presenting unacceptable threats to the health of 61 million children.

Since there are more jobs created fixing schools than fixing roads and bridges with heavy equipment, HS Network began drafting a collaborative white paper for the president-elect this fall. It was delivered to the Trump Transition Team this month. It describes the need for targeted improvements to our nation's schoolhouses, and for scaling up public health programs for children. Read the paper here

<http://tinyurl.com/goqkpuq>

We are following up in many ways. We will also celebrate the 15th annual National Healthy Schools Day on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. It is a day of public awareness and education. In recent years, nearly 40 partnering agencies and NGOs have created about 400 events nationwide. The goal for 2017? One event in every state, plus Washington, DC! We need your support to do that.

A gift today to HS Network will help us reach the goal of one event every state in 2017, and will also help us promote key programs at EPA and CDC, benefiting the 61 million children in schools and child care.

[\(Donate now\)](#).

Conferences Expand Our Children-First Focus

In the last year, HS Network convened 76 senior staff from 46 agencies and NGOs to discuss reforms to advance equity and justice by protecting children from environmental exposures in schools and child care. Quick results: new policy work by pediatric experts and epidemiologists underway; co-authored articles appearing in the *Journal of School Health* and *Environmental Health Perspectives*; and blogs in the *Huffington Post*. Most exciting, we have linked medical, public health, and research groups that had not previously worked together. Read the reports on *Environmental Health at School* at <http://tinyurl.com/844sahb>.

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

To sustain this work, you can make a [donation online](#).

Back to School—With Practical Knowledge Parents and Policy Makers Can Use

We released our influential 4th triennial report *Towards Healthy Schools: Reducing Risks to Children* for the 6th annual Back to School Day in August, with some 20 collaborating groups, outlining new and continuing environmental health risks to children nationwide, along with research confirming that federal and state health agencies ignore schoolchildren's risks and exposures. We have since presented the findings to the federal Education Facilities Clearinghouse and the Interagency Council on Indoor Air Quality, and to the National Association of State Boards of Education at its annual meeting in Kansas City, MO this fall.

Practical guides for parents and others: As of the Back to School National Day of Action we also released two new user-friendly guides:

□ [Parent Guide to Lead in School Drinking Water](#) □ [Disinfecting Wipes Guide](#)

New York State Leadership: Landmark Victories for Children

New York is the first to create a staffed Department of Health *Section on Children and School Health*. It is also the first state to provide a \$3M line item in the state budget to advance children's environmental health. HS Network has championed this funding since 2005, along with the federally supported Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

It is also the first state with a law requiring all public schools to test at the tap for lead: HS Network championed New York's Safe School Drinking Water Act, signed by Governor Cuomo in September 2016. Kudos to our diligent partners, chiefly the New York League of Conservation Voters and New York Public Interest Research Group, as well as the Learning Disabilities Association of America, New York State PTA, and many more. Quick results: all New York State public schools are testing at the tap for lead and reporting results locally; schools are reimbursed.

Please help our campaign to monitor the results: donate now [here](#).

Years ago, New York was also the first state to require all schools to use green cleaning products in 2005, then, with our encouragement, the state expanded its green procurement to all state agencies. We spurred green cleaning in schools nationwide with a National Work Group. Last year, we drafted "how-to" chapters for school business officials (purchasing agents), that are in national handbooks. Just for parents, we issued a new guide *Disinfecting Wipes: Unsafe for Kids & Classrooms!* To find green products for your school (of office!), see the National Work Group's toolkits at <http://tinyurl.com/4mus3z>

And, make a [donation today](#) to HS Network. Your support can help make every day a healthy school day for every child. **Thank you!**



Executive Director

NOTE Donations can also be made out and mailed directly to Healthy Schools Network, 773 Madison Avenue, 1st floor, Albany, NY 12208. The Network is a 501c3 not for profit. Donations and gifts of in-kind services are tax-deductible. In-kind gifts of travel and hotel, office supplies, and printing are always appreciated. If you are considering an in-kind gift, call us at 518-462-0632.

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