

Healthy Schools for Healthy Kids Summit

Building a Health-First Agenda for America's Schools

Barbara Jordan Conference Center | Washington, DC

August 5, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM



8:30 am **Doors open, Breakfast served**

Morning Session: Framing the Challenge

8:55 am **Welcome and Summit Goals**

Welcome from the summit hosts and summit overview.

Featured Speakers:

- Jennifer Lemon, MS; Acting Executive Director, Healthy Schools Network
- Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH; Executive Director, Children's Environmental Health Network
- Kenneth Mendez, MBA; President & CEO, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Jason Hartke, PhD, MBA; Executive Vice President, External Affairs and Global Advocacy, International WELL Building Institute
- Daniel Fiorino, PhD, MA; Founding Director, American University's Center for Environmental Policy and the School of Public Affairs

9:20 am **Senator Jack Reed on Why this Moment Matters: Opening Plenary**

The importance of healthy school environments and the opportunity to build a shared national agenda.

Plenary Speaker: United States Senator Jack Reed MPP, JD (D-RI)

9:45 am **Spotlight Conversation: Reimagining Schools Around Children's Health**

Leading experts examine how school environments influence children's health, learning, and long-term well-being.

Moderator: Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH

Featured Speakers:

- Erika Eitland, MPH, ScD; Director, Human Experience Research, Perkins & Will
- Robert Amler, MD., MMS., MBA., FAAP, FACPM; Vice President for Government Affairs, New York Medical College
- Chia-Chia Chang, MPH, MBA; Public Health Analyst, Office of Total Worker Health®, NIOSH

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **Spotlight Conversation: Healthy Schools in a Changing Climate**

Exploring resilient school buildings, indoor air quality, and climate preparedness.

Moderator: Daniel Fiorino, PhD, MA

Featured Speakers:

- Whitney Austin Gray, PhD; SVP of Research, International WELL Building Institute
- Joel D. Scheraga, PhD; Senior Advisor, Healthy Schools Network
- Taylor Brewer, MD; Pediatric Resident, Children's National Hospital

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11:30 am Spotlight Conversation: Health Equity in America's Schools

A discussion of healthy learning environments, educational opportunity, and equity.

Moderator: Kenneth Mendez, MBA

Featured Speakers:

- LaTricea D. Adams, MAT, EdS; Founder CEO & President, Young, Gifted, and Green
- Claudia Persico, PhD; Associate Professor, American University
- Amanda Ri'Chard-Briggs, DrPH(c), MSL, MPA; Office of Environmental Protection Environmental Health Administration, DC Health

12:15 pm Lunch

Afternoon Session: From Ideas to Action

1:15 pm Representative Bobby Scott on Congressional Leadership: Video Address

Featured Speaker: United States Representative Robert "Bobby" Scott, JD (D-VA); Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and the Workforce

1:30 pm Framing the Challenge

Work group formation and charge.

1:40 pm Facilitated Working Groups

Collaborative discussions by table:

- Healthy School Buildings and Infrastructure
- Indoor Air Quality
- Climate Resilience
- Children's Environmental Health Hazards

3:15 pm Break

3:30 pm Themes & Recommendations for Health-First Agenda for America's Schools.

Working groups share themes and recommendations for an action-oriented Health-First Agenda.

4:30 pm Looking Ahead: Next Steps and Closing

Students provide healthy schools charge. Summit leaders outline the process for on-going collaboration and development of the Health-First Agenda.

Featured Speakers:

- LaTricea D. Adams, MAT, EdS
- Clarence Ruffin, student
- Clarissa Ruffin, student

5:00 pm Event End

The Summit is organized and co-hosted by



The Summit is supported through the generous sponsorship of National Education Association, Environmental Working Group, IQAir, and Perkins&Will. We are proud to partner with FacilitiesNet.com as our official Media Partner.