



# Coalition *for* Healthier Schools

*...providing the national platform and  
the forum for environmental health at school, since 2001...*

Coordinated by Healthy Schools Network

## *Mission, Vision, and Framework*

### **Mission**

*To unite advocates, researchers, and practitioners in supporting federal action to improve school environments and protect the health of children and staff.*

### **Vision**

We envision a future in which healthy schools provide nurturing environments where all children learn and thrive:

- Every school meets high standards for healthy and safe environments to protect the health of children and other occupants.
- Federal policies, regulations, guidance and investments to support schools prioritize children's environmental health.
- Every school has the tools, training, and funding it needs to promote the health and well-being of children and youth.
- Environmental health equity is a core value in education, especially for low-income, rural-remote, and historically overburdened communities.

### **Organizational Framework**

The Coalition is voluntary, and participants retain complete autonomy in pursuing individual organizational goals. However, participants endeavor to create a “force multiplier” by *working cooperatively to promote policies of mutual interest and operating as a platform for aligned action*. The Coalition prioritizes flexibility and collaboration over formal membership.

### **Leadership and Coordination**

- **Lead Convener:** Healthy Schools Network serves as the convening organization, with support from the Steering Group. In consultation with the Steering Group, HS Network will convene regular meetings of the Coalition,



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propose meeting agendas, and summarize meeting outcomes and action items.

- **Steering Group:** A subset of the Coalition composed of national, local, state, and tribal thought leaders will shape advocacy priorities and messaging. The Steering Group will propose responses/action when federal developments present threats or opportunities for healthy school environments, to include sign-on letters, commentary on legislation, or position statements.

The Steering Group is advisory—not governing—to preserve individual organizational independence and foster an inclusive coalition. Each participating organization will choose whether to endorse or sign on to specific recommendations of the Steering Group.

## **Participation**

All aligned organizations and individuals may participate by:

- endorsing the Coalition mission statement.
- joining meetings and briefings.
- signing on to letters or campaigns as they choose.

There are no formal dues or membership roster. Organizations can move in and out of participation depending on organizational interest and priorities, maintaining the historic flexibility that has kept the Coalition effective since its founding in 2001.

## **Unique Role and Value Proposition**

The Coalition for Healthier Schools fills a critical gap in the nonprofit ecosystem:

- **Priority Focus on Children's Environmental Health and Learning:** The Coalition promotes improved environmental conditions in schools, including



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management, operation, appropriate investments, remediation or removal of health threats, and practices and planning to promote health and learning.

- **Federal Policy Leadership:** The Coalition aims to influence federal priorities, funding, standards, and technical assistance, as well as federal policies that encourage and support state and local action to promote children's health and learning.
- **Connector Across Issues:** Schools and their facilities are at the nexus of communities' concerns about children's health, learning, and safety. Thus, the Coalition will endeavor to link advocates for air quality, toxics, water and food safety, infrastructure, public health, disasters/emergency planning and response, and other issues often siloed in other efforts.
- **Platform for Sharing:** The Coalition provides a platform for organizations to share information on priorities and activities, build partnerships, coordinate public messaging, and maximize reach. However, the Coalition has no role in directing or approving priorities or activities of participating organizations.

## **Sustainability and Shared Resources**

- The Coalition is not organized expressly for raising or managing funds but may seek and support funding for specific projects and activities for which one or more participating organizations assume fiduciary responsibilities.
- Participating organizations are encouraged to collaborate on joint grant applications or contribute in-kind resources (research, outreach, hosting, drafting policy) in partnership with other Coalition participants or the Coalition as a whole.