



Background: The National Healthy Schools Day campaign has successfully worked with many local, state and nationally elected officials to issue Healthy Schools Day Proclamations and Resolutions promoting healthy and green school environments for all children.

Request: *If you are working with your local elected official or Governor, please call our office for further information as to what could be included in the Proclamation/Resolution: 518-462-0632; info@healthyschools.org.*

Sample text from past Proclamations & Resolutions:

The Council of the City of New York Proclamation:

WHEREAS: The Council of the City of New York is pleased and proud to join students, parents and teachers throughout the nation in observing National Healthy Schools Day; and

WHEREAS: New York City has the largest public school system in the country with over 1.1 million students; and

WHEREAS: The poor condition of New York City school facilities is well documented; and

WHEREAS: Too many New York City schools are overcrowded, unhealthy, poorly maintained and impede quality learning; and

WHEREAS: Many schools in New York City are located on or near environmentally toxic sites; and

WHEREAS: Children, on average, spend approximately 30-50 hours per week in school; and

WHEREAS: Children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards; they proportionally breathe more air, drink more fluids, and eat more food than adults. Their developing systems and behaviors contribute to their increased vulnerability; and

WHEREAS: In spite of their susceptibility, there are virtually no standards to regulate children's exposure to environmental hazards in school facilities; and

WHEREAS: Poor indoor air quality is a major problem in New York City schools and contributes to a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning disabilities and cancer; and

WHEREAS: Scientific studies suggest that poor environmental conditions in schools have an adverse effect on students' health and academic achievement; and

WHEREAS: Laws pertaining to public health, education and the environment must reflect a heightened sensitivity to the more susceptible nature of children and the mechanisms by which exposure to environmental hazards affect them; and

WHEREAS: Providing for the rights of children, parents and other members of the schools and the public to access information about known hazards in schools will allow these persons to make informed choices about environmental exposures for their children and themselves; and



WHEREAS: New and newly-renovated healthy and high performance schools designed to reduce energy and maintenance costs, while providing cleaner air, improved lighting, reduced exposures to toxic substances provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children and improve academic achievement and well-being; and

WHEREAS: Our schools are building blocks of our communities and the keystone of our future; and

WHEREAS: April 24, 2006 is National Healthy Schools Day, observed by communities throughout the country to highlight the need for improved attention and protection of children's environmental health at school; and

BE IT KNOWN: That the Council of the City of New York recognizes April 24, 2006 as *Healthy Schools Day* in the City of New York.

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania House Resolution:

Recognizing April 28, 2008, as "National Healthy Schools Day" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, "National Healthy Schools Day" observances in communities nationwide highlight the impact of school facilities and the school environment on child health, development and academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, A healthy learning environment heightens student attendance and student performance; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is committed to the health of all students in public school districts, charter schools, intermediate units, career and technical education schools and area vocational-technical schools; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Education, the Department of Health and other State agencies promote healthy schools policies in cooperation with school officials and community partners; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has implemented guidelines to prevent or resolve indoor air quality problems in public school facilities, where young children and children with special needs are especially vulnerable to toxic mold and chemical exposure, which can affect their development, cause upper respiratory illnesses and contribute to learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Indoor air quality can also affect attendance, concentration and performance by both children and teachers, who normally spend between 30 to 50 hours each week in school buildings; and

WHEREAS, A goal of "National Healthy Schools Day" is to raise awareness regarding air quality in our schools and to encourage schools to improve air quality by providing better ventilation, maintenance and cleaning of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and by using nontoxic cleaning products; and

WHEREAS, "National Healthy Schools Day" is the first day of "School Building Week," April 28 through May 2, 2008; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April 28, 2008, as "National Healthy Schools Day" in Pennsylvania.



Proclamation by New York State Governor David A. Paterson:

WHEREAS, New York State has one of the largest, most extensive, and excellent education systems in the country, including the New York City public school system – the largest in the country with over 1.1 million students, and the citizens of the Empire State are dedicated to enhancing and preserving the safety, health and well-being of our children, especially in the school environment; and

WHEREAS, our State is a recognized leader in many areas that affect children’s education, both directly and indirectly, and we all certainly care about the quality of the school environment where students learn and are inspired to achieve their full potential, as each building and every classroom must be a safe haven for our students; and

WHEREAS, the poor physical condition of school facilities is a reality that too many school districts are facing and unfortunately intensified by the unprecedented fiscal crisis affecting our State and Nation today; and

WHEREAS, as a result of long-term and more recent economic challenges, schools in both urban and rural areas are often overcrowded, unhealthy, inadequately maintained and impede quality learning; additionally, in urban areas, many schools are located on or near environmentally toxic sites; and

WHEREAS, children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards since they proportionally breathe more air, drink more fluids, and eat more food than adults, and their developing systems and behaviors contribute to this increased vulnerability, yet there are few existing standards to regulate children’s exposure to environmental hazards in schools; and

WHEREAS, poor indoor air quality is a problem in many schools that affects students’ health and academic achievement, and contributes to a range of problems, such as poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning disabilities and cancer; and

WHEREAS, in light of children’s susceptibility to environmental dangers, the Legislature passed a bill in 2006 which led to the creation of an Advisory Council on Children’s Environmental Health and Safety, whose mission is to evaluate State standards and guidance on children’s health and safety and to identify gaps in protecting children from environmental health hazards; and

WHEREAS, New York State is committed to maintaining the highest levels of safety as related to public education facilities and through the historic Healthy Schools Act, we are taking steps to ensure that school structures and properties not only meet certain practical needs, but high standards of safety, and on Healthy Schools Day, communities across our State and Nation are joining together to raise awareness of the hazards that children can encounter in school each day, as through the careful and wise management of these valued resources, we will keep our children safe and sound;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 27, 2009 as Healthy Schools Day in the Empire State.

United States House of Representatives Resolution:

RESOLUTION Expressing support for designation of April 27, 2009, as “National Healthy Schools Day”.

WHEREAS there are approximately 54,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation’s 120,000 public and private schools;

WHEREAS over half of schools in the United States have problems linked to indoor air quality;

WHEREAS children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards as they breathe in more air per pound of body weight due to their developing systems;

WHEREAS children spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school;



WHEREAS poor indoor environmental quality is associated with a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and cancer;

WHEREAS an average of 1 out of every 13 school-age children has asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for approximately 14,700,000 missed school days each year;

WHEREAS the Nation's schools spend approximately \$8,000,000,000 a year on energy costs, causing officials to make very difficult decisions on cutting back much needed academic programs in efforts to maintain heat and electricity;

WHEREAS healthy and high performance schools designed to reduce energy and maintenance costs, provide cleaner air, improve lighting, and reduce exposures to toxic substances provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children and improved academic achievement and well-being;

WHEREAS new building construction, especially new school buildings, should be designed to meet energy efficiency standards, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards;

WHEREAS green and healthy schools save on average \$100,000 per year on energy costs, enough to hire 2 teachers, buy 200 new computers, or purchase 5,000 new textbooks;

WHEREAS converting all the Nation's schools to green schools would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 33,200,000 metric tons;

WHEREAS Congress has demonstrated its interest in this compelling issue by including the Healthy High-Performance Schools Program in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our schools have the great responsibility of guiding the future of our children and our Nation; and

Whereas April 27, 2009, would be an appropriate date to designate as "National Healthy Schools Day": Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports

2 the designation of "National Healthy Schools Day".