

March 30, 2015



** SPECIAL EDITION **

In this newsletter we offer a sampling of resources from the EFC library to help you plan for National Healthy Schools Day. However, we encourage you to take action to keep the goal of safe and healthy schools on the forefront all year long.

National Healthy Schools Day - April 7th

Dr. Linda K. Lemasters, Director, Education Facilities Clearinghouse

The development of safe, healthy, high-quality educational facilities is a critical element of success in meeting the social and academic needs of students at all levels. The Education Facilities Clearinghouse fully supports National Healthy Schools Day and the efforts to raise awareness of the importance of improving school buildings, where our children and youth spend so much of their time. If we value children and learning, we must consider the conditions of our public school facilities. Let's model respect for students, educators, and other school employees by doing all we can to create healthy and safe environments for children to learn and play. This is a critical enterprise for educating the next generation and should be a goal for every community.



www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org



For Parents: FAQs about School Environmental Quality

What are the worst environmental problems inside schools?

It depends on the school. Dusts, dampness, vapor intrusion, molds, pests, hazardous chemical products, inadequate plumbing and drinking water are all common. After recent findings of highly toxic PCBs in school caulk and lit ballasts,

EPA issued guidelines on PCBs. Like all other environmental issues, parents and personnel should request school inspections, and insist on transparency and accountability from local schools and state agencies.

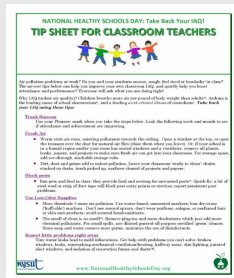
What can parents do to ensure healthy schools?

- Be alert to children whose health worsens when in school.
- Ask school administrators and facilities staff tough questions about how the school promotes indoor air quality. Be specific.
- Ask schools to use a suggestion/complaint box for school occupants to submit their observations, concerns, and thank yous!
- Ask about eliminating toxic pesticide use and phasing in safer, healthier cleaning products.

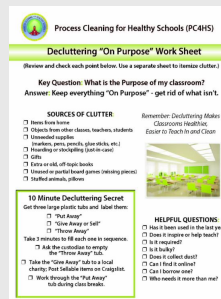
(Excerpted from *Frequently Asked Questions*,
www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org

Healthy Schools Network, Inc.)

For Teachers: Tips for Clean and Healthy Classrooms



Tip Sheet For Classroom Teachers
(Source: [National Healthy Schools Day](http://NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org))



Decluttering "On Purpose" Worksheet [Source: Process Cleaning for Healthy Schools (PC4HS)]

Featured Research

Lasting Effects of Creating Classroom Space: A Study of Teacher Behavior

Edward Duncanson (2014) as published in Educational Planning, Volume 21(3)

Research has shown that rooms with greater amounts of open floor space have higher test results.... Administrators need to create a system to dispose of unwanted materials. The center for school improvement resides in the classroom.

The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary can speak.

Henry David Thoreau, 1817 - 1862

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Contact

Education Facilities Clearinghouse
1 Old Oyster Point Road, Suite 220
Newport News, VA 23602
757.269.2210

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thereafter they shape us."

- Winston Churchill

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