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## *Why are School Facilities in the News?* Maintenance Backlogs, Mold, Pests, and More

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**Brief #6**  
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If poor conditions do not exist in your local schools, you likely know someone who lives in a community where they do. Together, we can all help improve the places where students learn.

When schools are in poor shape, what kind of message does that send to the children and parents?

As citizens, parents, and taxpayers, why don't we require the same level of maintenance for the places our children learn as we provide for our own homes? Few of us would allow a leaky roof to

persist or not replace an air conditioner when it is not operational. How can we allow a school to have anything less?

In many situations, a school lunch is the only hot meal a student gets. It must be prepared under sanitary conditions. If a restaurant consistently failed health inspections, it would not stay in business. Likewise, a hotel with a roach or rodent problem is destined to have a very high vacancy rate.

At what level of cleanliness should we maintain our schools? A school should be as clean as a hospital. As parents and citizens, why would we want to expose our children to anything less than hospital clean? That is a recommended benchmark for a clean school building. And please do not confuse the age of a facility as a proxy for how clean it can be. Visit any federal building in our nation's capital and you will understand my point.

[Read Full Summary.](#)

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