Healthy Schools: the Future of Healthy Children

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Protecting Children Where They Live, Learn, and Play

- Protecting children’s health and advancing environmental justice are important goals for the EPA.

- Unhealthy schools can affect children’s health, attendance, concentration, and performance.

- Healthy school environments must be addressed and integrated within the education system.
How has OCHP responded

- Regional help
- Guidelines for school districts and states
- Building capacity: State Grants
- Sharing lessons learned from State Grantees
- Current collaborative work
- Comprehensive school environmental health website
Regional Help
Regional School Coordinators
Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units

[Map of the United States with regional school coordinators and specialty units highlighted]

- Seattle: Northwest PEHSU, University of Washington
- San Francisco: Western States PEHSU, University of California (UC) at San Francisco
- Denver: Rocky Mountain PEHSU, University of Colorado
- Kansas City: Mid-America PEHSU, University of Missouri
- El Paso: Southwest Center PEHSU, Texas Tech University
- Atlanta: Southeast PEHSU, Emory University
- Chicago: Great Lakes Centers PEHU, University of Illinois
- PEHSU Satellite, University of Cincinnati
- Washington DC: Mid-Atlantic Center PEHSU, Georgetown University
- Boston: New England PEHSU, Harvard University
- New York City: Region 2 PEHSU, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

[PEHSU logo]
Response to the Energy Independence & Security Act

EPA has taken the following actions in response to the EISA mandates:

**Siting Guidelines** (Released Fall 2011) – Guidance to help school districts and community members evaluate environmental factors to make the best possible school siting/location decisions.

**State School Environmental Health Guidelines** - Presents recommendations, case studies, and resources to help states create or improve environmental health programs for K-12 schools.
How the Siting Guidelines are being used

• “Old School New School This Place That Place” – School Siting Training
  • The Georgia conservancy, U.S. Green Building Council, Georgia Chapter, and Mothers & Others for Clean Air – received pollution prevention funding from EPA to turn the guidelines into a training resource. The training program is based on the School Siting Guidelines.
  • The program can be used by any state or locality—certain portions of the program can be edited to reflect a community’s requirements and regulations.
  • If you are interested in learning more about the training, please contact Kara Belle at belle.kara@epa.gov.

• EPA’s Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program
  • The City of Billings. Montana – provides technical assistance to help Billings align its own locally defined planning priorities with their existing planning policies and capital investments using the school siting guidelines.
State School Environmental Health Guidelines

- The EPA developed these guidelines to help states better implement school environmental health programs.
- To complement the guidelines, the EPA has developed a model K-12 school environmental health program.
State School Environmental Health Guidelines

School Environmental Health Program Model

The Five Key Components

Component 1: Practice Effective Cleaning and Maintenance;

Component 2: Prevent Mold and Moisture;

Component 3: Reduce Chemical and Environmental Contaminant Hazards;

Component 4: Ensure Good Ventilation; and

Component 5: Prevent Pests and Reduce Pesticide Exposure
How the guidelines are being used by States

• State Grantees
  • Minnesota
  • Connecticut
  • Wisconsin
  • Ohio
  • New York
State Grantee Recommendations and Lessons Learned

An Addendum to the Voluntary Guidelines for States: Development and Implementation of a School Environmental Health Program

The Addendum includes:

- Background on the State Grantee Contributors
- Stepping through the Guidelines: Recommendations and Lessons Learned from the State Grantees
- Additional Resources
- Appendices: Tools for Developing and Implementing a State School Environmental Health Program
Current OCHP Collaborative Work
Visit our website for more information!

www.epa.gov/schools
Contact

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