



GREEN SCHOOLS

everychild.one voice.

Florida PTA Position

Florida PTA recommends the adoption of incentive mechanisms encouraging school districts to utilize Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) established guidelines in building and renovating schools and encourages schools to adopt and employ green schools best practices.

Background

The construction and use of buildings are among the many variables that can positively or negatively impact people’s lives and the health of the planet. Modern, safe, and healthy education facilities will result in a better-educated, more informed, and more productive population. At least two-thirds of America’s schools have unhealthy environmental conditions, such as polluted indoor air, toxic, chemical and pesticide use, molds, the presence of asbestos and mercury, and lead in water and paint. Every day thousands of children and staff are entering school buildings that undermine their learning and health.



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Green buildings

There are proven health and learning benefits for students, teachers and workers in green buildings. The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) is the nation's foremost coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. The USGBC has established Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a leading-edge system for designing, constructing, operating and certifying the nation's greenest buildings.

Talking Points

- Poor environmental conditions affect the health of students and school staff and contribute to absenteeism, student medication use, learning difficulties, sick building syndrome, staff turnover, and greater liability for school districts.
- Researchers have noted a connection between poor air quality and increased incidences of asthma.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 6.3 million school-aged children are afflicted with asthma, resulting in the loss of approximately 14 million school days each year.
- Asthma related absences disproportionately affect urban areas, which tend to have poorer overall air quality and house larger populations of African-American, Hispanic, and other minority students.
- The cost benefits of building and renovating schools to be environmentally sustainable "green" schools using LEED established guidelines are both immediate and long term

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