



Coalition *for* Healthier Schools

*...providing the national platform and
the forum for environmental health at school, since 2001...*

Coordinated by Healthy Schools Network

Back to School and Beyond Action Kit

Action Calendar




This calendar is designed to give you a year-long view of actions to promote and sustain environmentally healthy schools for all children and school staff.



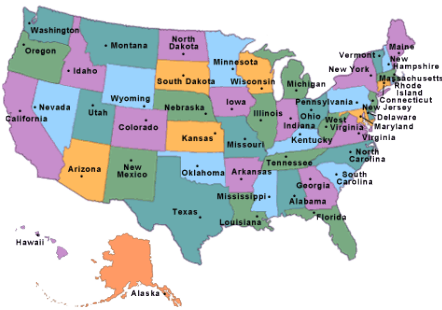
Use the Kit's [supporting tools and resources](#) to customize your own actions and advocacy.





We suggest you plan your local and state work to coincide with the [Suggested Activities](#). This will unite our voices, strengthen the message, and generate more media coverage.

And, join the Coalition: see <http://www.healthyschools.org/join.php>

Month	Event	Suggested Activities
Late August – early September 2012	Back to School 	<p>Parents: make sure your child is ready for school: sign and return forms for <i>health care needs, meal program eligibility, and emergency information</i>. If needed, make sure your child's special education plan is current. School Nurse tips: NASN Checklist for Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are newly renovated areas cleaned up and fume-free, or are hazardous renovations ongoing? • Send letters to the editor or place an op-ed in local papers about school environments. • Parents and personnel should meet with administrators to review indoor air management, green cleaning, safer pest control, and other concerns. • Conduct an IAQ/IEQ/IPM Checklist of your school's indoor environment, and practices such as Green Cleaning for Healthy Schools Checklist.

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September 2012	<p>US EPA expected to issue final guidelines for state agencies on school environments and announce grants to states</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>School leaders and administrators</u> should review US EPA and their state agencies' guidelines and regulations, then take extra steps to make sure their school is promoting a healthy and green learning environment. • Parents and school staff should meet with school administrators to discuss if their school conditions and practices are consistent with Federal Resources and state regulations, and if not, what steps it will take to do so. • Hold local parent and school staff meetings to organize around improving school conditions.
September 2012	<p>State education agencies launch competition for local school nominations for U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out if your state education agency is participating in the Green Ribbon Schools award: offer to help. • Suggest that your school apply for a Green Ribbon Schools award. Work with your school to prepare an application.
October 2012	<p>Children's Environmental Health month</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the case: Must Read Research Studies • Letters to Editors; Op-Eds • Prior to Election Day, ask those running for office about their positions on children's environmental health issues, such as improving the conditions of learning environments. • Attend Congressional Town Hall meetings or debates and ask questions. • Invite candidates and others to tour your school; use the IAQ/IEQ/IPM Checklist

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November 6, 2012	<p>Election Day!</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After Election Day, contact elected officials to raise awareness of healthy schools issues and needs. • Arrange visits to your school to either highlight positive environmental conditions or to demonstrate unmet needs.
January 2013	<p>State legislatures and Congress convene for 2013 legislative sessions</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a policy agenda and share it with your state and local officials. • Invite elected officials to visit your school to see environmental health problems. • Attend town hall meetings of elected officials and ask questions. Use the materials in this kit to help prepare.
January 2013	<p>Coalition for Healthier Schools Annual Meeting</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join the Coalition • <i>Watch this space for 2013 action items and tools.</i> • Start planning for National Healthy Schools Day 2013 on April 30 and all week long

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February 2013	<p>The President Releases the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate your members of Congress about the need to adequately fund EPA's healthy schools and children's health programs (<i>watch for Coalition's 2013-2014 policy updates</i>). • Use Must Read Research Studies to support your local and state school facility maintenance and repair budgets.
April 22, 2013 (tentative)	<p>U.S. Department of Education releases Green Ribbon Schools honorees</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Green Ribbon Schools awardees in your state/area to see their programs at work. Congratulate them! • Encourage your state to share the honorees' programs statewide.
April 30, 2013	<p>National Healthy Schools Day</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register your local/state National Healthy Schools Day activity. • Work with Coalition partners to organize local events and press activities. • If your school is planning major repairs or renovations, start now to protect occupant health
May 2013	<p>Asthma Awareness Month</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight the critical link between school environments and children's asthma. • Educate your state agencies on links between asthma and unhealthy conditions in schools: Must Read Research Studies and cite IAQ/IEQ/IPM checklist.

Month	Event	Suggested Activities
June 2013	<p>U.S. Department of Education national recognition ceremony for Green Ribbon Schools</p>  <p>The logo features the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" in a small, grey, sans-serif font above the words "GreenRibbonSchools" in a larger, green, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized green graphic of an open book with three pages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the opportunity to encourage other schools and your state agencies to improve efforts for healthy school environments for all children.
	<p><i>Last Day of School!</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank your school for taking steps to improve children’s health and learning. • School buildings are active year-round. Cleaning, repairs, renovations, summer school and other activities take place. Make sure your school follows EPA’s Summer Tips.