

# Join the Connecticut Alliance for Healthy and Safe School Buildings!

## The Health of Connecticut School Children, Educators and Staff Remains at Risk

- In 2003, the Connecticut state legislature passed PA 03-220: [An Act Concerning Indoor Air Quality in Schools](#), requiring all schools to adopt an indoor air quality program and report to the state periodically on its progress.
- Nearly five years after this law was enacted, new cases of preventable building-related illnesses among children and adults continue to be reported in school communities across the state.
- Physicians have linked the onset and exacerbation of asthma and other lung diseases as well as allergies and sinus infections to environmental conditions in school facilities that have poorly designed, operated and maintained heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

## Quality Ventilation is Key to Healthy Indoor Air Quality

1. HVAC systems that are well maintained can significantly dilute indoor air pollution.
2. HVAC systems that are not well maintained can:
  - Become a source of contamination
  - Spread contamination throughout a school building

**"The most important direct cause of poor air quality is inadequate fresh air ventilation regardless of what other factors may contribute to this condition."**  
*Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) report on [Indoor Air Quality in Connecticut Schools](#), July 25, 2000*

## Quality Ventilation Promotes Quality Education

- Robust science has established that inadequate air exchange has a profound impact on the health, comfort, productivity and achievement of school children and employees.
- Research has demonstrated that when elevated carbon dioxide levels indicate an insufficient amount of oxygen is being provided to school occupants, the ability to perform tasks involving concentration, calculation and memory becomes impaired.

**Reports published by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (2000), U.S. EPA (2003), U.S. Department of Education (2004), National Academy of Sciences (2006), and Center for Disease Control (2006) stress the importance of ensuring that school facilities have:**

1. Optimal ventilation rates (ASHRAE standards or better)
2. Frequent and thorough inspections of HVAC systems (at least once a year)
3. Ongoing upgrades, maintenance and repair of HVAC systems

**For more information about the  
Connecticut Alliance for Healthy and Safe School Buildings  
Call 203-770-5117**

## **The School Indoor Air Quality Law Must Be Improved**

1. Unlike IAQ laws in California and Maine, Connecticut does not require all schools with HVAC systems to inspect them annually.
2. State reimbursement for school construction grants does not provide funding to repair or upgrade HVAC systems.
3. Existing statutes involving HVAC systems in Connecticut schools are not being adequately audited for compliance.

## **Therefore, the Connecticut legislature needs to:**

1. Establish a fund to assist schools to upgrade and repair their ventilation systems.
  2. Develop an application, review and auditing process similar to the Massachusetts
  3. School Building Authority to prioritize which projects will be approved for funding, as well as an accountability system to track how well funds are utilized.
  4. Define requirements for a basic annual versus a comprehensive (every five years) inspection for school HVAC systems.
  5. Require all Connecticut schools with HVAC systems to:
    - Conduct basic annual and comprehensive HVAC system inspections.
    - Post results of these inspections on school web sites using a template to be developed by the CT State Department of Public Health based on the EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program and other IAQ models.
  6. Improve the reporting process implemented by the CT Department of Education by including more specific questions that track and audit ventilation rates, training of staff on ventilation systems and IAQ as well as record-keeping involving HVAC system maintenance.
-

---

# Join the Connecticut Alliance for Healthy and Safe School Buildings!

**Name:**

---

**Organization/affiliation (if applicable):**

---

**Street Address:**

---

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

---

**Phone: (w) (     )**

**(h) (     )**

---

**Email:**

---

**I would be interested in helping by:**

- Sharing information with others
- Writing or calling my legislators
- Volunteering
- Attending events
- Meeting with my legislators
- Making a donation
- Calling other network members
- Hosting an educational presentation
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in more information

---

Please mail completed form to:  
CAHSSB, 140 Rock House Road, Easton, CT 06612