

Dear School Official

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I am writing on behalf of our children to urge you to support the adoption of a High Performance Green School Building program. Adopting such a program will dramatically improve student performance, save money, and reduce carbon pollution that contributes to global warming. This is an important issue to me and I want to know what you are going to do about it.

A green school is a community facility that is designed, built, renovated, or operated in an ecological and resource-efficient manner. Green schools protect the health of the children and staff, provide a productive learning environment, connect students to the natural world, increase average daily attendance, reduce operating costs, improve teacher satisfaction and retention, and reduce overall impact on the environment. Green schools also set an example for our children that environmental quality is essential to our long-term well-being.

The following performance benefits of green schools are well documented in the report “Healthier, Wealthier and Wiser: Global Green USA’s Green Schools Report.”

- * Protect Student and Teacher Health – Schools designed with attention to proper ventilation, material selection, acoustical quality, and other indoor environmental factors can expect improved student and teacher health and higher attendance;
- * Improve Student Performance – Attention to site planning and adequate daylighting has been shown to heighten student performance by as much as 25%;
- * Lower Operating Costs – Operating costs for energy and water can be reduced by 20% to 40%, allowing more money to be used for teacher salaries, textbooks, and computers;
- * Provide Unique Educational Opportunity – When advanced technology and design in new schools are made visible, buildings can become teaching tools and important features of science, math, and environmental courses.

California, New York, and Massachusetts have already adopted Green School standards.. There are also Green Schools in Washington, DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. For more information on green schools you can visit www.globalgreen.org.

Ensuring these schools are built and funded will benefit our kids, our teachers, and our planet. There is no time to waste. As a leader in our school system I want to know what your plans are to address this issue and I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,