

SCHOOL HAZARD FACTS FOR FAMILIES

UNITE FOR HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Top School Health and Safety Websites

These 25 websites are the best available for New Jersey families on school health and safety topics. Go to them when you have questions. The first ten are advocacy groups, great for ideas and inspiration for organizing and action. The next two are unions with good information from a school staff perspective. The rest are government agencies, good for reliable, factual information. Read the site descriptions to find a good match for what you need.

1. *New Jersey Work Environment Council (WEC), Healthy School Environments*

www.njwec.org/healthyschoolenvironments.cfm

An alliance of over 70 labor, community, and environmental organizations working together for safe, secure jobs, and a healthy, sustainable environment. This page contains highlights of WEC's school work and links to WEC publications on healthy schools.

2. *Save Our Schools New Jersey (SOSNJ)*

www.saveourschoolsnj.org

Statewide network of individuals working to protect New Jersey's public schools by keeping the community at large and legislators informed about issues and legislation that directly impact children's education, both locally and at the state level.



3. *Education Law Center (ELC) (Some resources in Spanish)*

www.edlawcenter.org

Advocacy organization for equal educational opportunity and education justice, which won groundbreaking *Abbott vs. Burke* court rulings in NJ on behalf of at-risk students. ELC also promotes educational equity through coalition building, litigation support, policy development, communications, and action-focused research.



4. Healthy Schools, Healthy Towns

www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/healthy-schools-healthy-towns

A state-wide campaign by Clean Water Action and Sustainable Jersey to get New Jersey schools and towns to adopt model policies on green cleaning, vehicle idling, and pesticide-free zones.

5. Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of NJ (Some material in Spanish)

www.pacnj.org/schools.html

A statewide clearinghouse for asthma programs and services associated with the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic with posters and videos on controlling asthma in schools. Schools can complete six steps for an Asthma Friendly School Award.

6. Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) (Some resources in Spanish)

<http://chej.org/campaigns/focus-on-schools/>

National non-profit that empowers people to address public health and environmental threats from chemical hazards. They have several programs that focus on schools, including the Green Flag Program for Student Environmental Leadership.

7. Center for Green Schools, US Green Buildings Council (USGBC)

www.centerforgreenschools.org/home.aspx

USGBC promotes sustainability in how buildings are designed, built, and operated. They are best known for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating systems. The Center for Green Schools promotes schools which are sustainable and healthy places to live, learn, work, and play.

8. Healthy Schools Network (In Spanish)

www.healthyschools.org

National environmental health organization that does research, information sharing, education, coalition-building, and advocacy to ensure that every child has a healthy learning environment that is clean and in good repair.

9. Moms Clean Air Force (In Spanish)

www.momscleanairforce.org

Mothers fighting against polluters. Partners with the Healthy Schools Network. Released a 2014 report on schools near chemical plants.

10. Center for Effective Government

www.foreffectivegov.org

National advocacy organization which released a 2014 report, *Kids in Danger Zones*, calculating that 43 percent of NJ students attend school within a chemical facility vulnerability zone. Information on specific sites in NJ is included.

11. New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Health and Safety

www.njea.org/issues-and-political-action/health-and-safety

The largest labor union in New Jersey, which represents public school teachers and other school staff. This link gives public access to all NJEA health and safety publications including the *NJEA Health and Safety Manual*, booklets and pamphlets, and NJEA Reporter articles. Also links to other useful websites.

12. National Education Association (NEA), What's Your IEQ?

www.neahin.org/health-safety/environmental/whats-your-ieq.html

The largest labor union in the US. This link is to a free online course on how to identify, prevent, and resolve school indoor environmental quality (IEQ) issues.

13. New Jersey Healthy School Facility Environments (Some resources in Spanish)

www.state.nj.us/health/healthyschools/index.shtml

Access to the online resources of seven NJ state agencies, two federal agencies, and community, environmental, and labor organizations concerned with healthy schools.

14. New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA)

www.njsda.gov/Schools/Visit_My_School.asp

Manages and funds 100 percent of eligible school construction and renovation project costs in the 31 former Abbott special-needs districts, now known as SDA Districts. SDA also administers grants in New Jersey's Regular Operating Districts (RODs), which manage their own projects. The "Visit My School" pages describe progress on projects.

15. Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Program (PEOSH), NJ Department of Health (Some resources in Spanish)

<http://nj.gov/health/peosh/index.shtml>

Information on health-related topics like indoor air quality and hazardous substances. PEOSH regulations apply to public employees, including staff at public and charter schools.

16. Right to Know Program (RTK), NJ Department of Health (Fact sheets in Spanish)

<http://nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb/>

Right to Know about hazardous substances in workplaces and communities. Link to Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets (HSFS) on over 1,600 chemicals. Spanish versions are available for 900 chemicals.

17. Indoor Environments Program, NJ Department of Health (Some resources in Spanish)

www.state.nj.us/health/iep/index.shtml

Works to reduce the public's exposures to mold, asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint hazards, and many other indoor environmental pollutants.

18. NJ Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP), School Facilities Directory (Some resources in Spanish)

www.nj.gov/dep/school/index.htm

Access to state and federal requirements, programs, and best practices related to building operations and grounds, new construction, environmental health, indoor and outdoor environmental quality and natural resource management.

19. New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Codes and Standards

www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/codes/index.html

Establishes and enforces building codes in partnership with the State's municipalities. Enforces the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) implementing the building, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, energy, mechanical, elevator, radon, asbestos, rehabilitation and barrier-free subcodes, and lead hazard abatement.

20. New Jersey Department of Children and Families

www.state.nj.us/dcf/

Licenses childcare centers, including pre-schools, for basic building code requirements.

21. New Jersey Department of Education, Office of School Facilities

www.nj.gov/education/facilities/

Reviews and approves, disapproves, or suggests changes to school districts' five year plans and building project applications.

22. New Jersey Safe Schools

www.njsafeschools.org/

A project supported by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education, to assist schools in reducing risk to occupational safety and health hazards in secondary school and work environments in which NJ adolescents spend time.

23. Healthy School Environment Resources, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Some resources in Spanish)

www.epa.gov/schools/

Gateway to online EPA resources to help facility managers, school administrators, architects, design engineers, nurses, parents, teachers and staff create healthy schools.

24. Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (some resources in Spanish)

www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/actionkit.html

A comprehensive resource to help maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems.

25. IAQ Design Tools for Schools, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

www.epa.gov/iaq/schooldesign

Detailed guidance and links for new school design and repair and maintenance of existing facilities. Focus on energy efficiency, IAQ, day-lighting, materials efficiency, and safety, taking into consideration tight budgets and limited staff.

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Healthy Schools Now is a coalition of parents, educators, students and public school advocates dedicated to ensuring that all New Jersey children and school employees learn and work in safe, modern school buildings.

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