

## National Parent Teacher Association

- Founded in 1897, the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is comprised of more than five million members, including parents, students, educators, school administrators, and community leaders.
- With more than 25,000 local units, PTA flourishes in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Department of Defense schools in Europe and the Pacific.
- As the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States, PTA's legacy of influencing federal policy to protect the education, health, and overall well-being of children has made an indelible impact in the lives of millions of children and families. PTA continues to be a voice for children within federal policy.



## National Parent Teacher Association 2009 Public Policy Priorities

- Parent Involvement and Engagement
- Opportunity and Equity for All Children
- Child Health



## Green School Facilities as a National PTA Priority

- 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.
- Every parent has the right to expect that their child's health is being properly respected and protected throughout each and every school day.
- PTA recognizes that the school facility itself can stimulate learning and help to incorporate innovative curriculum and methods into the classroom.
- Modern, safe, and healthy education facilities will result in a better educated, more informed, and more productive population.



## Areas in which Green School Facilities Effect Child Health, Wellness and Productivity

- Indoor Air Quality
- Temperature Control
- High Performance Lighting
- Asthma Reduction



### Effects of Indoor Air Quality on Child Health and Wellness

- The Carnegie Mellon building performance program identified 17 studies documenting the relationship between improved air quality and health.
- The health impacts include asthma, flu, sick building syndrome, respiratory problems, and headaches.
- These 17 separate studies all found positive health impacts ranging from 13.5% to 87% improvement, with average improvement of 41%.
- A recent review by Carnegie Mellon of five separate studies evaluating the impact of improved indoor air quality on asthma found an average reduction of 38.5% in asthma in buildings with improved air quality.



### Effects of Temperature Control on Child Health, Wellness and Productivity

- A review of 14 studies by Carnegie Mellon on the impact of improved temperature control on productivity found a positive correlation for all studies, with productivity improvements ranging from 0.2% up to 15%, and with an average (mean) of 3.6%.



## Effects of High Performance Lighting on Child Health, Wellness and Productivity

- Carnegie Mellon summarized findings from 11 studies documenting the impact of high performance lighting fixtures on productivity, finding that productivity gains ranged between 0.7% and 26.1% with an average (median) of 3.2%.
- In a study of 200 utility workers, workers with the best views performed 10-25% better on tests. Workers in offices without glare outperformed workers in offices with glare by 15% or more.



## Effects of Green Schools on Student Attendance and Excellence

- An analysis of two school districts in Illinois found that student attendance rose by 5% after incorporating cost-effective indoor air quality improvements.
- A study of Chicago and DC schools found that better school facilities can add 3 to 4 percentage points to a school's standardized test scores, even after controlling for demographic factors.
- A recent study of cost and benefits of green schools for Washington State estimated a 15% reduction in absenteeism and a 5% increase in student test scores.
- Students moving into the Ash Creek Intermediate School in Oregon experienced a 15% reduction in absenteeism.
- The Third Creek Elementary School in Statesville, NC, replaced two older schools in 2002. The same group of students and teachers improved from less than 60% of students on grade level in reading and math to 80% of students on grade level in reading and math. Third Creek had the most gains in academic performance of any of the 32 schools in the school system.

