

HEALTHY SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO LEARN + THRIVE

Recommendations to the Next Administration
For Immediate Release
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Healthy Schools Campaign Releases Recommendations to the Next Administration Outlining How the Next President Can Improve Students' Lives

October 20, 2016, Chicago, Ill. -- While there are still a few weeks to go until we find out who will become the next President of the United States of America, one thing is certain: That president will have several opportunities to improve the lives of students across the country. Currently, the nation's children are struggling academically and could become the first generation to live shorter and less healthy lives than their parents. The next President of the United States has the opportunity to support states, school districts and communities in creating the conditions of student health and wellness and giving all children a chance for a healthy, brighter tomorrow. In its Recommendations to the Next Administration, Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) outlines four key ways our new president can make an impact on health and wellness in schools.

Health issues are more than mere distractions for students. They impede academic achievement and impair students' ability to fully participate in school. "Unless the challenges plaguing our school environments and our children's health are addressed, efforts to improve academic performance and to close the achievement gap will be compromised," says Rochelle Davis, President and CEO of HSC. "This is especially important because many of the health disparities that affect learning have a disproportionate impact on low-income African-American and Latino students, signaling health disparities as a possible catalyst of the academic achievement gap."

A healthier school environment is one that provides good nutrition, physical activity, basic safety, clean air and water, access to care, and education about making healthy choices. HSC has made the following recommendations to the next administration in support of providing that environment:

Ensure that all students have access to the physical and behavioral health services they need to be in school and ready to learn. In other words, ensure school health providers, such as nurses and psychologists, are in every school. This is especially critical given that the prevalence of chronic diseases including asthma, obesity and diabetes has doubled among children over the past several decades.

Support implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in a way that supports student health and wellness. Annual state report cards should include rates of chronic absenteeism and incidences of violence, including bullying and harassment. These measures are directly shaped by a school's health and safety environment.

Ensure all schools are “green” and able to support student health and learning while preserving the environment. This includes clean air and water schools, the use of green cleaning products and green schoolyards where kids can both play in a safe environment and engage with nature.

Ensure all students have access to healthy and nutritious meals by fully implementing the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. Many children consume at least half of their meals at school; for many children, food served at school may be the only food they regularly eat. With more than 30 million children participating in the USDA National School Lunch Program and 12 million participating in the USDA School Breakfast Program, good nutrition at school is more important ever.

It's simple: Healthy students are better prepared to learn, thrive and succeed in school.

To read the full recommendation, visit our [website](#).

ABOUT HEALTHY SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) is a nonprofit organization leading change for healthy schools at the local, state and national levels. HSC advocates for all students to have nutritious food, physical activity, health services and clean air at school, elements that directly support health and learning. In light of the vast health disparities our nation faces, HSC focuses on issues affecting low-income students of color and strives to make equity part of the public dialogue about education and health. HSC brings together parents, teachers, principals, school nurses, students, policymakers and partners to raise a strong voice for healthy schools, creating change at schools and at the district level in Chicago. This on-the-ground experience informs HSC's national advocacy to benefit all students. This work is grounded in the belief that every child deserves to learn and thrive. Visit healthyschoolscampaign.org to learn more.