

Green Cleaning Programs in Schools Get High Scores



The studies are convincingly positive: green cleaning programs in schools benefit students and the administration. With the implementation of successful indoor air quality programs, schools can see an increase in productivity and higher test scores overall.

- Green cleaning programs play a vital role in creating a healthier environment. And the healthier environments created by indoor air quality programs result in improved student attendance and attitude, improved teacher attitude and retention and – perhaps most important—improved math and reading scores.



Here are some of the remarkable results of green cleaning and indoor air quality programs (Source: Healthy School Environment and Enhanced Educational Performance)

- School attendance increased from 89% to 93%
- Math scores at basic or above increased from 51% to 76%
- Reading scores at basic or above increased from 59% to 75%



Research for the green cleaning programs showed that high performance schools manifest many common traits, including:

- The appearance of the school is inviting. Students, teachers, and the local community want it to be there.
- The school strives for student-friendly conditions throughout the building.
- The school is inviting to good teachers and supports their retention.
- The school is designed to reduce stress. It is comfortable, has a consistent temperature, and manages noise.
- The school is clean and sanitary.
- The risk of an adverse health effect is very small



The number of children in classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, gymnasiums, locker rooms, and other areas creates huge cleaning and maintenance challenges.

- School locker rooms can be breeding grounds for all kinds of bacteria, germs, fungi and viruses that can result in anything from a cold or flu to an upset stomach, rashes and skin infections.
- Schools are four times as densely occupied as commercial office spaces and children are not known for neatness.
- More children have asthma and allergies than ever before and constant foot traffic stirs up dust and tracks in mud and debris.
- While schools should be cleaned more frequently and more effectively, the cleaning itself

should not contribute to the problem.

- **Air pollutants can cause respiratory ailments such as nasal congestion, shortness of breath, wheezing or worsening of asthma, nosebleeds, a cough, or other symptoms such as itchy, watery eyes, headaches or dizziness, fatigue, nausea, rashes, fever, muscle aches and more**