



## THE CENTER FOR GREEN SCHOOLS AT THE U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

Across America, when the school bell rings, the next generation of leaders walks into classrooms, libraries, cafeterias and assembly halls that are compromising their ability to learn, not enhancing it. Every day we decry the state of our under-performing education system, ignoring the one area where we can easily make dramatic improvements - the school facilities themselves.

“The green schools movement is the biggest thing to happen to education since the introduction of technology to the classroom.”

**Glenn Cook, Editor in Chief, American School Board Journal**

“The Obama Administration has three domestic priorities: education, health care and energy and in working to create healthy, efficient and environmentally conscious green schools, [the Coalition for Green Schools] is making progress on all three initiatives.”

**Martha Kanter, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education**

The Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council works directly with school districts, universities and elected officials throughout the country to expedite the transformation of our school buildings into places that encourage students to excel. We convene conversations with decision makers, collaborate with other leading educational and environmental associations and provide tools and resources to help make the transformation possible. We ignite the passion of educators and students, parents and principals, business and NGO leaders, members of school boards and members of Congress to do whatever it takes to put students in schools that keep them safe, make them healthier and inspire their desire to learn.

Twenty percent of America goes to school every day. There are nearly 140,000 schools, colleges and universities in the U.S., and no one has ever counted the buildings, thousands of which are barely built to code. Yet we know that high performing students are a direct result of high performing schools.

Daylight boosts concentration. Comfortable temperatures increase focus. Good acoustics enable communication. Air that is fresh and

“I think that we should begin in elementary schools teaching people about sustainability... we know that children’s instincts always direct them to be more green... We should give every young person the means to maximize the environment of their schools. They’re all in school somewhere—public or private. We should be right now engaged in retrofitting every school in America.”

**President Bill Clinton**

“The promise and potential of green schools should be realized by every community across this country. The sooner we as legislators become advocates for change, the sooner our schools - and our taxpayers - will reap the rewards.”

**State Representative Rafael Anchia, Texas**

# THE CENTER FOR GREEN SCHOOLS



“In the context of other student movements, often when public policy lags behind public values, students voice public values and help move policy to respond to public concerns.”

**Matt St. Clair,**  
**Sustainability Manager,**  
**University of California**

“Spelman has a choice to change the world. But before we can change the world, we have to change ourselves ... Understanding our own environmental impact and seeking to reduce it is a choice that all of us can make every day.”

**Spelman College**  
**President Dr. Beverly**  
**Daniel Tatum**

clean improves health. And when we transform the physical environment of learning institutions, we transform the way students, teachers and communities engage with their world. A green school is an interactive teaching tool, imparting lessons of stewardship and kinship, preparing students for life beyond its walls. Because it uses substantially less energy and water, a green school also costs less to operate. The average green school saves \$100,000 a year – enough to pay two teachers, purchase 200 computers or buy 5,000 textbooks.

We want people around our table who can make a difference. We work with architects and business leaders who share our vision, school administrators who know how to get things done, and parents who are single-minded about the health and safety of their kids. We work with activists who make their voices heard, teachers who empower students as change agents and students who assume that green schools are simply how it's supposed to be.

The Center for Green Schools is a driving force for green schools discourse, research, policy development, advocacy and innovation in every region, state, school district and campus across the country. Putting every child in a green school within this generation is our mission, and we've no time to waste.

“We are a university, we are about education. If we are effective, we can change students' behavior for the rest of their lives.”

**Dr. Mary Finley-Brook,**  
**assistant professor of**  
**geography and**  
**environmental studies,**  
**University of Richmond**

“AASA knows that sustainable practices can be incorporated effectively into school construction and operations. The most successful green school building efforts utilize cross-departmental teams across a district, representing operations, maintenance, facilities, engineering and health services, among others, and include specific behavioral and technological strategies that facilitate student learning.”

**Dan Domenech**  
**Executive Director,**  
**American Association of**  
**School Administrators**

**U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL**

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