



NEW REPORT: CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA, ALLERGIES BEAR BURDEN OF UNHEALTHY SCHOOLS

February 5, 2013, WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new report released today says that unhealthy environments inside America's schools burden students, especially those with asthma and allergies. **Towards Healthy Schools 2015** by the Healthier Schools Coalition, is a state by state data and policy report and analysis. The report states that there are more children with asthma in US schools. Environmental exposures may increase the development of asthma and worsen asthma symptoms.

The report estimates indoor estimates that ALL public and private school children should be considered at elevated risk of health and learning difficulties due solely to the unexamined and or unaddressed environmental health risks in their schools and the lack of public health services for children at risk or with suspected exposures.

Charlotte Collins, Vice President of the Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America (AAFA) said, "Unhealthy school conditions put children in harm's way, force parents to take time off from work, and cost the nation untold millions in health care costs. This is a justice and equity problem that must be fixed". AAFA is a member of the Healthier Schools Coalition and also endorsed a letter sent by the coalition asking Congress to fully fund the US EPA's Office of Children's Health and the agency's Indoor Air Quality and other schools-related voluntary programs schools.

The full report can be downloaded at:
<http://www.healthyschools.org/HealthySchools2015.pdf>.

About AAFA

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), a nonprofit organization founded in 1953, is the leading patient organization for people with asthma and allergies in the US, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient group in the world. AAFA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people through education, advocacy and research. AAFA provides practical information, community based services and support to people through a network of regional chapters, support groups and other local partners around the United States. For more information, visit www.aafa.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charlotte W. Collins
Policy & Programs, AAFA
Charlotte @aafa.org
www.aafa.org
202-974-1228