

October is Children's Health Month!

Protect children where they learn!

Healthy schools boost success!

Properly maintained and cared-for schools can enhance students' focus, performance, and overall mental and physical health.

Get educated on how schools can ensure a safe and healthy learning environment!



epa.gov/schools



October is [Children's Health Month](#) and EPA Region 10 is proud to join our national efforts to spread awareness about the importance of protecting children, especially those who are most vulnerable where they live, learn and play. **Children are not little adults!** They eat, breathe and drink more relative to their body mass, and their biological systems are not yet fully developed. Therefore, children are often at greater risk compared to adults from environmental threats such as pollution and climate change.

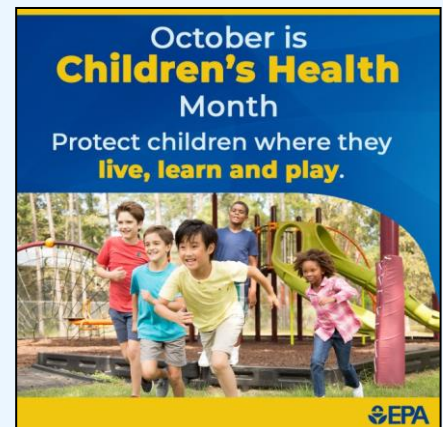
A healthy school environment plays an important role in the performance and well-being of both students and educators. Here are a few resources you can use to help make our learning environments healthier places.

Children's Health Outreach Toolkit

Check out our new [Children's Health Outreach Toolkit](#) with educational materials, social media messaging, graphics, and other outreach resources.

This year's Children's Health Month's focus is to raise awareness about protecting children where they live, learn and play. We also highlight this last full week of October as International and [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week \(NLPPW\)](#).

We have also included a list of **children's educational materials** at the end of this newsletter that our regional team has on hand to support your school's activities and programs. Contact us at R10_HealthySchools@epa.gov if you'd like copies for your school or district.



Clean School Bus Rebate Program Open for Applications!



EPA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS

The 2023 [Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#) is now open! EPA anticipates awarding at least \$500 million in rebate funding. Eligible applicants (including public school districts) may apply to receive funding for the purchase of up to 25 zero-emission and/or clean school buses, along with zero-emission charging infrastructure and

eligible workforce development costs. **Applications are due by January 31, 2024.** For more information contact cleanschoolbus@epa.gov.

Safer Choice Cleaning Products for Schools

Cleaning products used to clean your school can impact the air you breathe. EPA's [Safer Choice](#)-certified products work well and contain ingredients that are better for indoor air quality and the health of your students, teachers, and staff.

Check out the [Safer Choice interactive community graphic](#) and click on the school building for a list of product categories typically found in schools. Select a category to find a list of Safer Choice-certified products of that type to consider using in your classroom. You can also go directly to the [Safer Choice Products](#) site to search for specific products with the Safer Choice label.

Safer cleaning in schools helps protect everyone

- Students
- Teachers
- Custodians
- School staff
- School nurses
- Parents & visitors



epa.gov/saferchoice

Want to promote using safer cleaning products in your school and community? Go to our [Safer Choice Media Kit](#) for messaging, graphics, and other resources to help spread the word!

Environmental Education Grants and Awards Applications are Open!

Environmental Education Local Grant Program Funding

Our Environmental Education program will award grants between \$50,000 – \$100,000 in each of our ten regions for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques, that will serve to increase environmental literacy and encourage behavior that will benefit the environment in **local** communities, especially underserved communities. **Applications are due by November 8, 2023.**



The Region 10 grant opportunity information is posted at this [GRANTS.GOV page](#). Visit the [Environmental Education Grants page](#) to access information about this year's competition, answers to frequently asked questions, regional contacts, and other applicant resources. We encourage you to subscribe to the [EE Grants Listserv](#) to stay up-to-date on all of EPA's Environmental Education information, including announcements related to future grant competitions.

Nominate Teachers and Students for Environmental Education Awards

Do you know any talented and dedicated students or teachers making a difference for a healthier environment in your community? Nominate them for a [President's Environmental Youth Award](#) or a [Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators](#).

Applications for both awards are due no later than Monday, January 15, 2024.



For the **President's Environmental Youth Award**, EPA will select up to two winners in each of our 10 regions: one regional winner for Grades K-5 and one regional winner for Grades 6–12. All student projects must be sponsored by at least one adult over the age of 21. If the sponsor is not a teacher, the project must have a teacher as a co-sponsor.

For **Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators**, up to two teachers from each of our 10 regions, each from different states, will be selected to receive the award. Teachers will receive a presidential plaque and an award of up to \$2,500 to be used to further professional development in environmental education. The winner

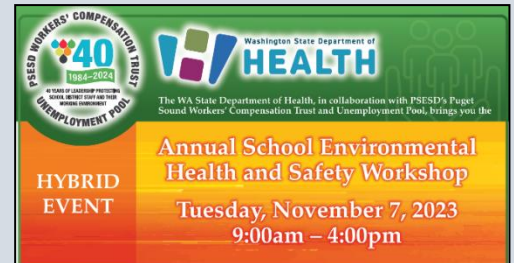
teachers' local education agencies will also receive awards of up to \$2,500 to fund their environmental educational activities and programs.

Winning projects and teachers will be highlighted on EPA's website. Check out the links above for application and eligibility details. For additional information on the youth awards, please email PEYA@epa.gov, and for more information on the teacher awards, please email PIAEE@epa.gov.

Region 10 Schools Training Opportunities

School Environmental Health and Safety, Autumn Workshop

The workshop is being hosted by the Washington Department of Health on Tuesday, November 7th in Renton. Our Children's Health Team will be participating and sharing some of our resources. Check out [this School Environmental Health & Safety workshop page](#) for more information, the agenda, and the link to register in person or virtually.



Alaska Schools Maintenance Conference

The Association of Alaska School Boards – [Maintenance Employees Conference 2023](#) was held on October 4-5 in Anchorage. Our Children's Health Team provided display materials on children's environmental health, air quality, and Safer Choice products. Contact our team if you have a conference or event that we could support through collaboration or outreach materials.

Check out our other sites for additional information and resources:

- Past issues of EPA Region 10 Healthy Schools News: <https://www.epa.gov/children/healthy-schools-news-pacific-northwest>
- EPA Schools: www.epa.gov/schools
- EPA Environmental Education: <https://www.epa.gov/education>
- EPA Children's Environmental Health: www.epa.gov/children

Subscribe/unsubscribe: to be added to or removed from the R10 Healthy Schools distribution list, please email R10_HealthySchools@epa.gov with the email subject title of *Subscribe* or *Unsubscribe*.

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Your Region 10 Children's Health Team

[Bryan Fiedorczyk](#)



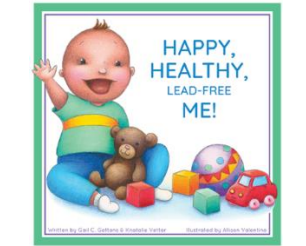
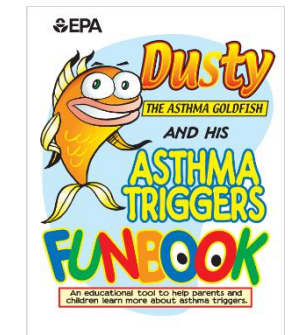

Children's Environmental Health
Coordinator
& Healthy Schools Coordinator

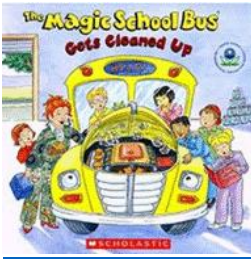
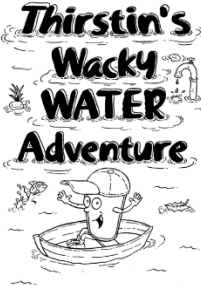
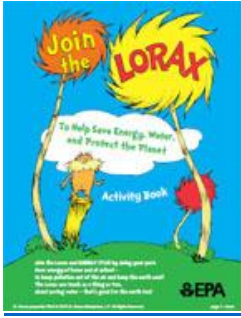

[Gretchen Stewart](#)

SEE, Children's Environmental Health &
Healthy Schools Support



Region 10 – Children’s Health & Healthy Schools Outreach Materials

Book cover	Book title/description
	<p>Why Is Coco Red? – in this new book, students learn about how wildfires impact air quality and can affect their own health. Click on this link: Why is Coco Red? video to watch and listen to a narrated video version. Available in English & Spanish</p>
	<p>Why Is Coco Orange? – in this earlier story from 2019, children learn about air quality, the Air Now program,, and the connection to asthma. You can find a narrated video version at this link: Why is Coco Orange? video. Available in English & Spanish.</p>
	<p>Happy, Healthy, Lead-Free Me – board book to educate parents on steps and resource to protect kids from lead exposures. Available in English & Spanish.</p>
	<p>Dusty The Asthma Goldfish and His Asthma Triggers Funbook –activity book to help children learn more about asthma triggers in the home and school environments. Available in English & Spanish.</p>
	<p>How Does EPA Protect the Environment? Activity Book for Children</p> <p>8-page activity book for young children provides an overview of the different ways in which EPA protects human health and the environment.</p>

	<p>The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up – in this Scholastic series book, students learn about pollution emitted from their own diesel school bus and learn how to reduce emissions and health risks from diesel exhaust. Available in English & Spanish.</p> <p>In addition to school bus retrofits, EPA offers a separate rebate program to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. Learn more at this link: EPA Clean School Bus Program</p>
	<p>Thirstin's Wacky Water Adventure - activity and coloring book on water resources. Available in English & Spanish.</p>
	<p>The Lorax activity book – a fold-out activity book is full of games and tips for learning about saving energy and water, and protecting the environment.</p>
	<p>Smoke & Your Family's Health – 11" x 17" poster with information and tips to protect your family from smoke – produced by the Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit. Available in English & Spanish.</p>

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