



Support the Green Clean Schools Act Vote Yes on HB895

What is Green Cleaning?

Green Cleaning simply means *cleaning to protect health without harming the environment.*

Why is Green Cleaning important?

Indoor air at schools is often polluted. According to EPA, half of all students, teachers, and school staff are exposed to polluted indoor air that may be five to 100 times more polluted than outdoor air.

Many conventional cleaning products contain harmful chemicals that are a source of indoor air pollution.

Children, especially those with asthma, are at a high risk from polluted air and chemical exposures from conventional cleaning products; if children are sick, they cannot learn.

A Green Cleaning program can reduce chemical exposures and yield important benefits, including:

- ?? **Protecting children's and teachers' health**, thereby putting children in a better position to learn;
- ?? **Protecting the health of custodial staff** who work closely with the cleaning supplies; and
- ?? **Protecting the environment.**

What will this act do?

This act will require all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois to purchase only environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies.

Who is using Green Cleaning now?

Schools throughout the state are using Green Cleaning practices. School cleaning programs vary from schools such as Lockport Township High School that have complete green cleaning programs to others that are substituting a few products. Chicago Public Schools adopted a Green Cleaning Policy in 2005 that is being implemented on a limited basis.

In 2006, New York became the first state to require Green Cleaning in all public and private schools.

What is the cost?

Environmentally preferable cleaning products are cost-competitive and widely available, as the market has now matured. A pilot study conducted in Chicago Public Schools showed Green Cleaning products to be cost comparable and equally effective to conventional cleaning products. This was consistent with the findings in New York.
