

Category # 7:

The Guidelines should provide reporting and oversight.
[3 comments received]

State Response:

There is no statutory requirement for reporting and oversight. However, the community in general influences schools and state agencies to be accountable to the requirements of green cleaning. In addition, OGS and SED have reached out to schools and state agencies through meetings, trainings and written documents, as well as through the redesign of the attached Green Cleaning website.

<https://greencleaning.ny.gov/Entry.asp>

Public Comment:

Comment #1:

Hello-

I am writing as a mom on Long Island with three small children. This legislation was passed when my oldest was just starting Kindergarten. I have been a big advocate of this since day one, but unfortunately, it appears to me that not all schools had the same response to the new "rules". In fact, I'll bet some did nothing at all because there is no oversight. Who is responsible to check that all of the districts are in compliance? The few e-mails I sent to the SED made me realize they were NOT doing this. Someone needs to be assigned this job and it should be a part of the final draft. As well, what happens when a district is in non-compliance-again and again? Something needs to be said in this regard or there is no real reason to comply.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I sincerely hope my comments will be considered.

Thank you,
Juliet Thomson
Miller Place

Comment #2:

In keeping with public disclosure of compliance with state education facilities health and safety laws, and consistent with the state's goal of reducing the impact of asthma on schools, children, and their families, and knowing that the use of green cleaning products helps to improve indoor air and reduce asthma episodes, we note a New York Dept of Health 2008 report *Asthma and School Environment in New York State*

(http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/asthma/asthma_in_schools.htm) found many schools serving high asthma neighborhoods which were out of compliance with school IAQ laws (RESCUE), including green cleaning.

As a result, we strongly urge:

- New York State Dept. of Health to seek the authority to do random onsite facility compliance evaluations of schools that are low-performing and/or serving high asthma communities; and
- New York State Education Dept. to add use of certified green cleaning products to the SED facility Annual Visual Inspection and to the five-year Building Condition Survey forms, making it easier to track and target compliance. In addition, we recommend that SED, advised by DOH and OGS, develop a template ‘letter home’ and news insert for local schools to use to help broadcast their green cleaning programs locally.

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Claire L. Barnett, Executive Director
HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK, INC.

Comment #3:

We also agree with HSN’s request that OGS... use of certified green cleaning products to be added to the SED Facility Annual Visual Inspection and to the five-year Building Condition Survey.

Wendy S. Hord
Health and Safety Specialist
NYSUT
