



# DRAFT LEGISLATIVE TEXT

**Resolution to Support  
Green Schools**

## DRAFT Ordinance/Resolution NO. \_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_ [legislative body] of \_\_\_\_\_ [state/county/city/town] desires to grow the twenty-first century economy by establishing community-advancing policies that unleash the potential of our buildings and our children to usher in a healthier, safer, more efficient, resilient and prosperous future;

**WHEREAS**, deteriorating school infrastructure and poor indoor environmental quality threaten the health, well being and achievement of staff and students;

**WHEREAS**, healthy, high-performance schools, or "green schools," create a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while saving energy, resources and money;

**WHEREAS**, children in green schools are healthier and more productive because green schools emphasize excellence in areas such as natural day lighting, thermal comfort, and classroom design – all of which have been shown to improve children's well-being and ability to learn [find more information [here](#)];

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of superior indoor air quality – a key emphasis of green schools – have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher retention rates [find more information [here](#)];

**WHEREAS**, green schools use an average of 30 – 50% less energy compared to conventional schools [find more information [here](#)];

**WHEREAS**, instruments like the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system can optimize building performance, resolve operational inefficiencies, and dramatically reduce utility costs in new school construction and in existing school renovation;

**WHEREAS**, green schools provide an educational experience that transcends the classroom by creating a host of opportunities for curriculum innovation and hands-on, project based learning in which the building itself becomes an interactive teaching tool;

**WHEREAS**, green schools do not cost more to build than conventional schools [find more information [here](#)] – proven by hundreds of green schools in hundreds of communities across the U.S., including \_\_\_\_ [insert a few relevant examples from [here](#) or [here](#)];

**WHEREAS**, greening existing schools can happen through low or no-cost operations and maintenance improvements, such as implementing water efficiency measures, green cleaning programs, smarter purchasing practices, recycling and waste reduction initiatives, and energy management plans that can save a school district millions of dollars a year in direct operating expenses [find more information [here](#)]; and

**WHEREAS**, the above-listed benefits of green schools – including fiscal responsibility, human and environmental health, and an educational connection to the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy – transcend political boundaries;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The \_\_\_\_ [legislative body] of \_\_\_\_\_ [state/county/city/town] agrees to work together toward common sense solutions and to pass policies that effectively promote the benefits of green schools to our communities and advance the vision that every child will attend a green school within this generation.

*State legislators worked with the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council to develop a first-ever state legislator’s guide to best policy practices called [Greening Our Schools](#). Since then, many legislative ideas have been compiled into a [Green Schools Menu of Options for State Legislators](#). At the local level, mayor-and-superintendent teams worked with the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council to develop a national action plan entitled, “[Local Leaders in Sustainability](#).” Find all this and more at [www.centerforgreenschools.org](http://www.centerforgreenschools.org). See also, USGBC’s [Establish Common Ground around Green Schools](#) campaign.*