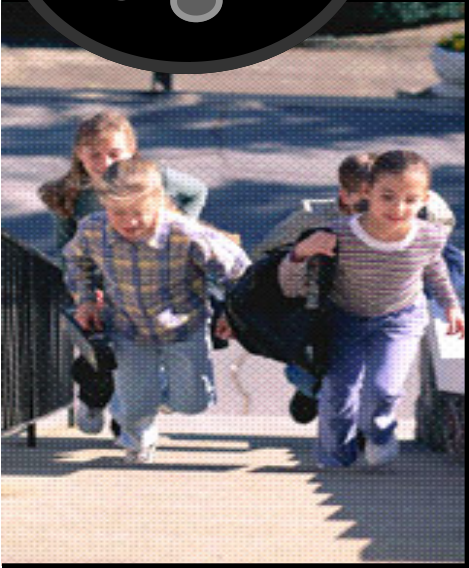


HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



A healthy school environment includes the physical and aesthetic surroundings and the psychosocial climate and culture of the school. Factors that influence the physical environment include the school building and the area surrounding it, any biological or chemical agents that are detrimental to health, and physical conditions such as temperature, noise, and lighting. The psychological environment includes the physical, emotional, and social conditions that affect the well-being of students and staff. ¹

A Healthy School Environment positively impacts student achievement by:

- Improving grades
- Increasing average achievement scores
- Fostering environment where students remain academically engaged
- Decreasing school misconduct

BUILDING CONDITION AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT ²

The condition of school buildings indicate to students how much society values education and can affect student achievement. Schools in poor physical condition scored 8.49 points below those schools in excellent physical condition on achievement tests. Furthermore, there was a positive association between the school building condition and the school's PTA budget. When the PTA budget increased by as little as \$10/student, the building condition improved. With regard to building condition only, a category change from "poor" to "fair" increased average student achievement scores by 5.5 points.

SCHOOL BONDING AND PROBLEM BEHAVIORS ³

Transition to middle school and high school are difficult for students who are academically or socially deficient or who have parents who are uninvolved and unsupportive. Teaching social skills, improving classroom climate, modifying school environment and enlisting active involvement and support by parents may improve school bonding and reduce problem behaviors. Findings from a middle school survey found student-school bonding was positively correlated with school adjustment and perceived school climate but inversely correlated with problem behavior.

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