



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the state of Tennessee continues focus on improving education, public safety, a more customer-focused, efficient and effective state government, keeping taxes low, and a healthy and safe environment for school children and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, children, parents, teachers and other educators throughout the nation join together to observe National Healthy Schools Day on April 24, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, EPA Tools for Schools program has been recognized for meeting or exceeding Tennessee's goal for reducing school expenditures, increasing school attendance, improving test scores, and for providing vigilant protection of the indoor and outdoor environment where school children live, learn and play; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. EPA IAQ Champions (Tennessee Blount County Schools) established an IAQ prevention and remediation structure using the EPA Tools for Schools to address mold and HVAC issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Air Quality Division, through collaboration with state health and education departments, works to improve IAQ in Tennessee schools through workshops and has increased use of the EPA Tools for Schools Action Kit; and

**WHEREAS**, Williamson County School District began implementing EPA Tools for Schools program guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Tennessee promotes policies that protect and enhance healthy learning environments for children through the indoor air and environmental quality management, green cleaning, safer pest control, integrated pest management, and implemented guidelines to prevent or resolve indoor air quality problems in public school facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing rate of asthma among schoolchildren and teachers, absenteeism, health hazards for children and staff in schools sited on/near hazards and toxic waste sites, danger to the health of school occupants from hazardous and toxic products and chemicals applied or used during the school day, uncontrolled construction or renovation of occupied schools, and green and safer cleaning or safer pest control policies are of great concern; and

**WHEREAS**, children, on average, spend approximately 30-50 hours per week in school; and

**WHEREAS**, children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards as they proportionally breathe more air, drink more fluids, and eat more food than adults, and their developing systems and behaviors contribute to their increased vulnerability; and

**WHEREAS**, new or renovated healthy and high performance schools designed to improve indoor air and environmental quality can also reduce energy and maintenance costs and thus provide a healthier and safer learning environment for all children through cleaner air, improved lighting, and reduced exposures to toxic substances, and improve attendance, academic achievement, and well-being; and



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**WHEREAS**, our schools are building blocks of our communities and our children are our future; and

**WHEREAS**, federal, state, local and private sector entities should work together to ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently to address environmental health and safety conditions of schools; and

**WHEREAS**, April 24, 2012, is National Healthy Schools Day, observed by communities throughout the country on the week of April 24th to highlight the need for improved attention and protection of children's environmental health at school;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2012, as

## HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 24th day of April, 2012.



Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Lee Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State