

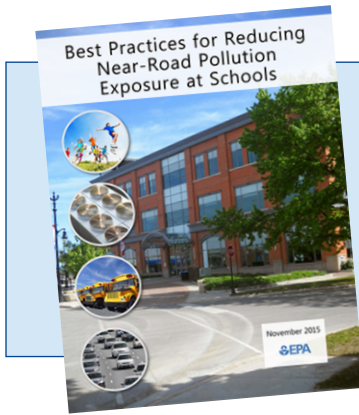


U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency

# Best Practices for Reducing Near-Road Pollution Exposure at Schools

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[www.epa.gov/schools](http://www.epa.gov/schools)



Nearly 17,000 schools in rural and urban areas across the U.S. are located near heavily traveled roads. The U.S. EPA has compiled strategies for reducing student and school staff exposure to traffic-related air pollution at schools. Best Practices for Reducing Near-Road Pollution Exposures at Schools is available for download at [www.epa.gov/schools](http://www.epa.gov/schools).

Motor vehicles are a major source of air pollution in the United States. Motor vehicle pollutant concentrations tend to be higher closer to the road, with the highest levels generally within the first 500 feet of a roadway.

Exposure to traffic-related air pollution has been linked to a variety of health effects. Children are particularly sensitive to air pollution.

Several strategies are being used by communities and schools across the country to reduce traffic-related pollution exposure. EPA has compiled these strategies into a document of Best Practices for Reducing Near-Road Pollution Exposures at Schools.

This publication can help school communities identify strategies for reducing traffic-related air pollution exposure at schools, such as:

- Upgrade filtration systems used in classrooms.
- Locate air intakes away from pollution sources.
- Provide training to school staff and students on indoor air quality and ventilation.
- Avoid strenuous activities, such as physical education class and sports, during peak traffic times.
- Consider improvements to site layout, such as locating classrooms further from the roadway.
- Reduce car and bus idling, upgrade bus fleets, and encourage active transportation like walking and biking to school.
- Consider installation of solid and/or vegetative barriers.

