

SCHOOLS CHEMICAL CLEANOUT CAMPAIGN

PROTECTING STUDENTS AND STAFF THROUGH RESPONSIBLE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

A collaborative Federal effort among the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Education, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOLS CHEMICAL CLEANOUT CAMPAIGN?

Through the Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign

(SC3), the federal government works with states, tribes, and individual schools, who have worked for years to solve chemical management problems that endanger K-12 students. When they are used responsibly, chemicals enable students to make scientific discoveries, create works of art and develop vocational skills. But when they are improperly stored, outdated, unknown or unnecessary, chemicals can create serious health and safety problems for children and school staff.

A large majority of middle and high schools have chemicals that, when mismanaged, put students and staff at risk. Across the country, chemical hazards can be found in areas such as:

- School chemistry laboratories;
- Art classes;
- Vocational classes;
- Facility maintenance areas; and
- Janitorial closets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT THE SCHOOLS CHEMICAL CLEANOUT CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:

www.epa.gov/sc3

RESPONSIBLE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

KEY COMPONENTS OF A RESPONSIBLE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ARE TO:

THE GOALS OF SC3 ARE TO:

REMOVE INAPPROPRIATE, OUTDATED, UNKNOWN AND UNNECESSARY CHEMICALS FROM SCHOOLS.

PREVENT FUTURE CHEMICAL MISMANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS THROUGH TRAINING, CURRICULUM AND POLICY CHANGE AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS.

RAISE AWARENESS OF CHEMICAL ISSUES IN SCHOOLS AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS.

- Establish a chemical management plan;
- Conduct periodic chemical inventories;
- Plan and budget for chemical purchases, management and disposal;
- Establish environmentally preferable purchasing practices;
- Encourage school staff to use the smallest amount of the least hazardous chemicals; and
- Offer chemical management safety training for school staff.

WHY START A CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Chemical incidents have resulted in lost school days and cleanup expenses that cost schools, school districts, and communities millions of dollars. Schools that adopt and perform responsible chemical management practices are taking steps towards sustainable solutions that:

- Reduce chemical exposures, fires and spills that may require costly cleanups;
- Create healthier school environments;
- Minimize school days lost to chemical cleanups;
- Decrease liability; and
- Protect the environment.



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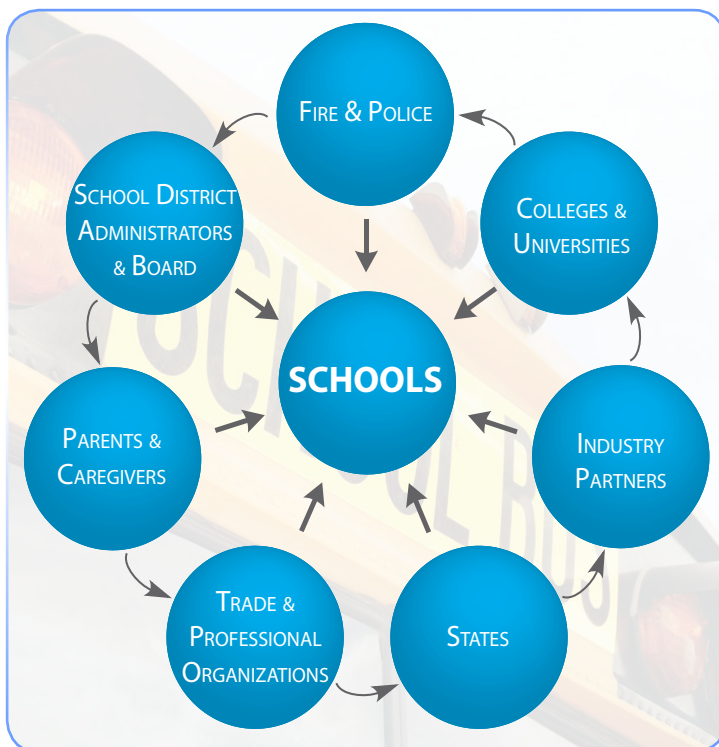
HOW CAN COMMUNITY PARTNERS HELP?

The best way for a school to build a chemical management program depends on the unique circumstances of that school. Schools have access to a wide array of potential partners. One of the most important steps a school can take is to seek out and establish partnerships with external organizations, such as state and local institutions and companies with specialized expertise.

POTENTIAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS CAN INCLUDE:

- Technical assistance
- Training opportunities
- Waste handling and disposal
- Chemical management
- Emergency response planning

POTENTIAL SCHOOL PARTNERS



THE SC3 TOOLKIT

The goal of SC3 is to protect students from mismanaged chemicals by giving schools the tools they need to create safer learning environments. SC3 partners have developed a variety of tools to encourage cleanouts and provide guidance on developing successful chemical management programs. The following tools can be accessed on EPA's SC3 Web site:

- "Lessons Learned" documents that discuss success factors and identify program barriers in state and regional SC3 programs.
- Chemical management, purchasing, and cleanout resources.
- Brochures describing the roles K-12 schools and community partners play in chemical management programs.
- Presentations on chemical management and hazard awareness for use by teachers, administrators, and state officials.

