

The **AFSZ** is a project of
Real World Foundation

Asthma Free School Zone Newsletter

Asthma Prevention, Environmental Protection & Community Empowerment in a Neighborhood Setting

AFSZ is a member of the following:

New York Asthma Partnership (NYCAP)

East Harlem Asthma Working Group (EHWG)

Asthma in Harlem Schools Partnership (AHSP)

The South Bronx Asthma Partnership (SBAP)



AFSZ in the News

The Christian Science Monitor 3/09/04

http://search.csmonitor.com/search_content/0309/p12s01-legn.html

The Villager 2/11/04

http://www.thevilager.com/villager_41/students-breathing.html

The Gotham Gazette 2/11/04

<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/children/20040206/2/862>

AFSZ Bill Introduced

On February 4, 2004, legislation was introduced to the NY City Council that would bring the AFSZ program to all city schools. Councilmember Margarita Lopez (District 2) sponsored the bill, which sets forth a number of protective measures to be enforced within a school zone (i.e., restrictions on idling and guidelines for pollution-causing construction activity in and around schools) and calls for environmental health education opportunities for school parents, staff, and community members who live or work near AFSZ school zones.

The proposed legislation matches the AFSZ program in all aspects but one. A school zone is defined as extending 500 ft. from a school's legal property lines in the legislation. The AFSZ definition is site-specific, with each school determining its own school zone, which may range from a single block to as many as four blocks, depending on where playgrounds are located, where children enter and exit the school, and any other factors or traffic patterns.

To see the bill (Int. 0083-2004), go to: www.afsz.org>program>proposed legislation

School Buses To Turn Off Engines

New York State Attorney Eliot Spitzer announced on January 23rd that an agreement had been reached with NYC's four largest private school bus companies to reduce idling time near schools to one minute. The investigation that led to the agreement began after a phone call from the AFSZ, alerting the Office that the idling by school buses at PS 61 on East 12th Street was uncontrolled and dangerous. The OAG responded immediately.

May is Asthma Awareness Month

Throughout May, keep an eye open for AFSZ busstop posters warning about the health effects of diesel and asking drivers to turn off engines near schools. The 4x6 ft. signs will be hung throughout NYC's five boroughs as part of an initiative sponsored by the US Dept. of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, DOT's Federal Transit Administration and USEPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality. The NYC Asthma Partnership is sponsoring the poster, which was designed by the AFSZ.

To learn more about the initiative, go to: <http://www.italladdsup.gov/about/index>.

First Signs Go Up

At the end of a press conference on 2/5/04 that announced the introduction of AFSZ legislation, the first metal 12x18 inch AFSZ street sign was posted in front of PS 61 at 710 East 12th St. in Manhattan's East Village. Other signs are now being posted at schools on the Lower East Side, in East and Central Harlem as the program is introduced.



AFSZ Director Rebecca Kalin