

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 Core Program

AFSZ schools support:

- Local Enforcement of the No-Idling law
- Advocacy for Clean-Fuel School Buses
- Improved School-wide Health Efforts
- Local Construction & Roadwork Guidelines



Site-Specific Goals

Individual AFSZ schools have identified:

- Traffic congestion
- Lack of trees
- Untended dumpsters
- Unsafe crossings
- Home de-triggering



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

AFSZ Partnership with NYC Childhood Initiative

The NYC Office of School Health, the newly integrated school health program of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Education, has asked the *Asthma Free School Zone* project to bring its program to as many as ten schools in East Harlem and the South Bronx, two NYC neighborhoods identified as high-risk.

The AFSZ will support school-based AFSZ activities and will provide school-wide training about environment health issues related to asthma, such as what constitutes a respiratory health risk and what can be done to reduce or eliminate exposure.

Besides school-wide training and installation of Asthma Free School Zone signage, each school will be helped to set and attain one or more site-specific environmental improvement goals.

Asthma Free School Zone Street Signage

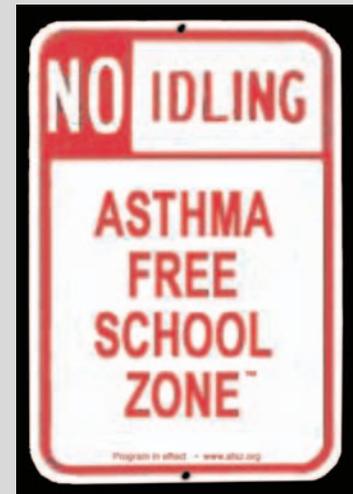
Beginning in January, people who live or work near a handful of New York City public schools can look up and see a new kind of street sign. The 12 x 18 inch metal signs, which read "No Idling / Asthma Free School Zone," will be posted outside 15 elementary schools located in East Harlem, the South Bronx, and the Lower East Side.

Inside the school zone, the three-minute NYC anti-idling law - already on the books and routinely ignored - will be enforced for all vehicles, including cars, trucks and buses. A public awareness raising campaign will target drivers with informational fliers and residents with a bilingual English /Spanish newsletter that explains the health and safety measures in an Asthma Free School Zone. "School members and neighborhood residents will be encouraged to exercise "soft enforcement" by pointing to the sign and asking

drivers to "please turn off their engines in the school zone."

THE LAW

According to NYC Administrative Code 24-163, it is illegal to idle a non-emergency motor vehicle for longer than 3 minutes while parking, standing or stopping unless the engine is being used to operate a loading, unloading or processing device.



Signage to be installed in AFSZ pilot school sites