



ACTION ALERT

November 8, 2007

Environmental education is facing a national crisis. Many schools are being forced to scale back or eliminate environmental education programs. State and local administrators and teachers point to two factors behind this recent and disturbing shift: the unintended consequences of the No Child Left Behind law and a lack of funding for these critical programs. The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 will include funding and support for environmental education in the reauthorized No Child Left Behind law, ensuring that the next generation of graduates will be environmentally literate.

The No Child Left Behind reauthorization bills are currently being written in the Senate and House education committees. A long list of cosponsors of the No Child Left Inside Act will indicate strong support for including funding and support for environmental education in the No Child Left Behind bills.

Please contact your representative and senators immediately to ask that they cosponsor the No Child Left Inside Act. Each email, fax, and phone call counts!

1. Fax or e-mail a letter urging your senators and representative to cosponsor the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 (S.1981, H.R.3036). Go to www.eenclb.org and click on Contact Your Congressperson to email a letter. For fax numbers, go to <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>.
2. After sending your e-mail or fax, call your senators' and representative's offices (U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121) and ask to speak to the education staff person. Tell him or her how important it is that the senator or representative cosponsor the No Child Left Inside Act and support its inclusion in the No Child Left Behind bill.
3. Send this action alert to your friends, family, and colleagues and ask them to contact their senators and representative.

If you believe that children should be spending more time outside (learning and playing), be better prepared to address increasingly complex environmental issues, and that the nation's public schools have a critical role ensuring that both of these goals are met, then contact your federal legislators today!

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 amends the No Child Left Behind law in the following ways:

- Provides federal funding to states to train teachers in environmental education and to operate model environmental education programs, which include outdoor learning.
- Provides funding to states that create environmental literacy plans to ensure that high school graduates are environmentally literate.
- Provides funding through an environmental education grant program to build state and national capacity.

For more information about the No Child Left Inside Act and the No Child Left InsideSM Coalition, go to www.eenclb.org.

Note: "No Child Left Inside" is used with permission from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.