

By: Lozano

H.R. No. 2090

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Deteriorating school infrastructure and poor indoor  
2 environmental quality are detrimental to the health, welfare, and  
3 achievement of faculty, students, and staff; and

4           WHEREAS, By contrast, green schools support the health of  
5 their occupants while reducing environmental impact and costs;  
6 these high-performance buildings offer many features that have been  
7 shown to improve children's well-being and ability to learn,  
8 including natural lighting, thermal comfort, and thoughtful  
9 classroom design; moreover, superior indoor air quality, a hallmark  
10 of green schools, has been linked to lower incidence of asthma and  
11 allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher retention  
12 rates; and

13           WHEREAS, Green schools cost no more to build than  
14 conventional schools, as hundreds of districts across the country  
15 have found, and they use, on average, 30 to 50 percent less energy;  
16 existing schools can be converted through low- or no-cost  
17 improvements to operations and maintenance, and districts can save  
18 millions through the adoption of such initiatives as energy and  
19 water management, green cleaning and smarter purchasing practices,  
20 and recycling and waste reduction programs; the LEED (Leadership in  
21 Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system has  
22 proven a valuable instrument for optimizing building performance,  
23 resolving operational inefficiencies, and dramatically reducing  
24 utility costs in new construction and renovations; and

1           WHEREAS, Students who attend green schools gain greater  
2 knowledge of sustainability, a concept of rising importance in the  
3 competitive 21st century economy; moreover, the building becomes an  
4 interactive teaching tool, creating multiple opportunities for  
5 curriculum innovation and hands-on, project-based learning; and

6           WHEREAS, While promoting good health and creating an  
7 environment that is optimally conducive to teaching and learning,  
8 green schools save energy and money, and the benefits they bring  
9 contribute significantly to prosperity and quality of life in the  
10 communities they serve; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby express its support for green schools and  
13 encourage all Texans to learn more about the advantages they  
14 provide.