



Queens Congregations United for Action

We are members of the Parents in Action group at Leonardo da Vinci (IS 61) school in Corona, Queens, and members of Queens Congregations United for Action. QCUA is a faith-based community organization made up of 9 congregations and schools in Northern Queens.

We as parents are very concerned about the high levels of toxic PCB's in our city's schools. PCB's are one of only 3 toxics that have been totally banned from schools and we are appalled that the Department of Education has been so slow to respond and take this seriously. This chemical can lead to many problems and sicknesses, including leukemia and other forms of cancer, learning disabilities, and others that can harm our children and limit their ability to learn! Due to the DOE's reluctance to test, we had to take matters into our own hands; we had our school independently tested – it revealed a level of over 6,900 ppm in the caulk – well over the EPA's limit of 50ppm! And we know there are other schools in the city with levels much higher!

The DOE responded with a plan to remediate the situation in 10 years – This is unacceptable! The whole job could be done in two years and should be done as quickly as possible – for the sake of our children, our teachers, our families.

We urge the DOE to do the following in all at-risk schools and do it in two years:

1. Change the old light fixtures immediately
2. Fix any broken ventilation systems
3. Test the schools completely for PCB's – the air, dust, caulk, and lights – and clean any contamination

Thank you,

Parents in Action Group at IS 61
Queens Congregations United for Action

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amado', is written below the text.

A second handwritten signature in black ink, also appearing to be 'Amado', is written below the first signature.