

# NORTH AMERICA TEACHER UNIONS

# WI-FI IN SCHOOLS

## UNITED EDUCATORS OF SAN FRANCISCO

- Resolution on Safer Technology calls for the California cell phone advisory on how to reduce cell phone exposure be disseminated to students and staff.
- Webinars on reducing RF exposure.

## CANADA TEACHER FEDERATION

- Briefing document "Wi-Fi in School" recommends limiting Wi-Fi.

## UNITED TEACHERS OF LOS ANGELES

- 2013 Resolution "UTLA will advocate for technological solutions that maintain technology upgrades while not increasing employees exposure to electromagnetic radiation."

## UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

- Website shares Dr. Moskowitz's "Reducing Exposure to Wireless" brochure and The BabySafe Project "What You Need to Know About Wireless Radiation and Your Baby."

## ELEMENTARY TEACHERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO

- Call for Wi-Fi moratorium until health studies done (Limestone).

## BC TEACHERS FEDERATION

- Resolution supporting members suffering from electromagnetic hypersensitivity by ensuring that their medical needs are accommodated in the workplace.

## ONTARIO ENGLISH CATHOLIC TEACHERS

- Position Statement recommends wired networks as WI-FI "may present a potential health and safety risk or hazard in the workplace."

## GREATER VICTORIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- Recommends minimal or non-use of Wi-Fi.

## NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHER UNION

- Resolution "Hazards of Wireless Radiation Emission"
- They issued "Best Practices" which includes to "avoid prolonged, close contact with wireless routers, laptop computers, tablets, cell phones and cordless phones."
- Webinar "Risks of wireless technologies and protecting children and staff in schools."

## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

- National AFT Conference presentation about wireless radiation posted online.

## NEW JERSEY EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

- Put devices on desks, not laps.
- Hard wire all devices that connect to the internet.
- Hard wire all fixed devices such as printers, projectors and boards.
- Use hard-wired phones instead of cell or cordless phones.
- Put devices in airplane mode, which suspends EMF transmission in the device, disabling Bluetooth, GPS, phone calls, and WiFi.

"All educational facilities must have healthy indoor air quality, be smoke-free, be safe from environmental and chemical hazards, and be safe from hazardous electromagnetic fields...the public should be notified of actual and potential hazards."

— National Education Association

"We have enough evidence to justify taking action and we are not willing to wait until our members, their children and the students suffer health consequences from not doing anything,"  
—Paul Pecorale, VP New York State United Teachers Union.

# CELL TOWERS NEAR SCHOOLS

## SCHOOL CELL TOWER SETBACKS

Many communities have policies, ordinances or zoning that ensures cellular antennas are restricted to a specific minimum distance from schools. Hempstead, New York requires a special use permit for cell towers near schools.

Examples of cell tower/4G/5G small cell setbacks/preferred placements for schools:

- Palo Alto, California: 1,500 feet
- Copake, New York: 1,500 feet
- Los Altos, California: 500 feet
- Walnut City, California: 1,500 feet
- Bar Harbor, Maine: 1,500 feet
- Sallisaw, Oklahoma: 1,500 feet
- Shelbourne, Massachusetts: 1,500 feet
- Stockbridge, Massachusetts: 1,500 feet
- San Diego County California: 1,000 feet
- Encinitas California: 500 feet
- Scarsdale New York: 500 feet
- Ithaca, New York: 250 feet

## CELL TOWERS REMOVED FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS

- Milpitas California: School Board asked Crown Castle and T-Mobile to relocate the cell tower to remote location.
- Ripon California: Sprint moved the cell tower at elementary after students and staff developed cancer and parents argued children should not be guinea pigs.
- Alameda California cancelled cell tower contracts.
- Dekalb County Georgia dropped school tower plan.

## SCHOOL BOARDS

- Palo Alto Unified School District Cell Tower Resolution supports the City 1,500 setback and opposes cell tower "on or in close proximity to schools to ensure individuals, especially children, are protected from the potential negative effects associated with radiation exposure."
- West Linn-Wilsonville Oregon School Board prohibits cell towers on school property.
- Vancouver School Boards Resolution: 1,000 feet
- Greenbelt Maryland Council opposes school towers.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The International Association of Firefighters passed a Resolution opposing cell towers on its stations in 2004 after a study found neurological damage in firefighters with antennas on their fire stations.

## LOS ANGELES UNIFIED CA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 3 resolutions opposing cell towers on school property.
- The District Office of Health and Safety developed a "cautionary level" for radiofrequency radiation 10,000 times lower than FCC regulations because, "it is believed that a more conservative level is necessary to protect children, who represent a potentially vulnerable and sensitive population."

## SCHOOL BOARDS THAT REVERSED COURSE

- Montgomery County Maryland Schools has a policy no to allow any more cell towers on elementary schools.
- Prince George's County Maryland School Board decided not to renew a cell tower construction master leasing agreement that had allowed over 70 schools to be marketed as cell tower sites.
- Portland Oregon Schools ended new leases for cell towers.

## EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS

- The New Hampshire State Commission 5G Health and Environment Report recommends a setback of 1640 feet for schools.
- The Collaborative For High Performance Schools (Green building rating program) has LOW EMF Criteria which includes no cell towers on school property.

## THE EPA SCHOOL SITING GUIDELINES

Lists exposure to electromagnetic fields and the fall distance as "potential hazards" from cell towers. The EPA guidelines recommend schools "identify and evaluate cell towers within ~200 feet of prospective school locations."

## PUBLISHED RESEARCH

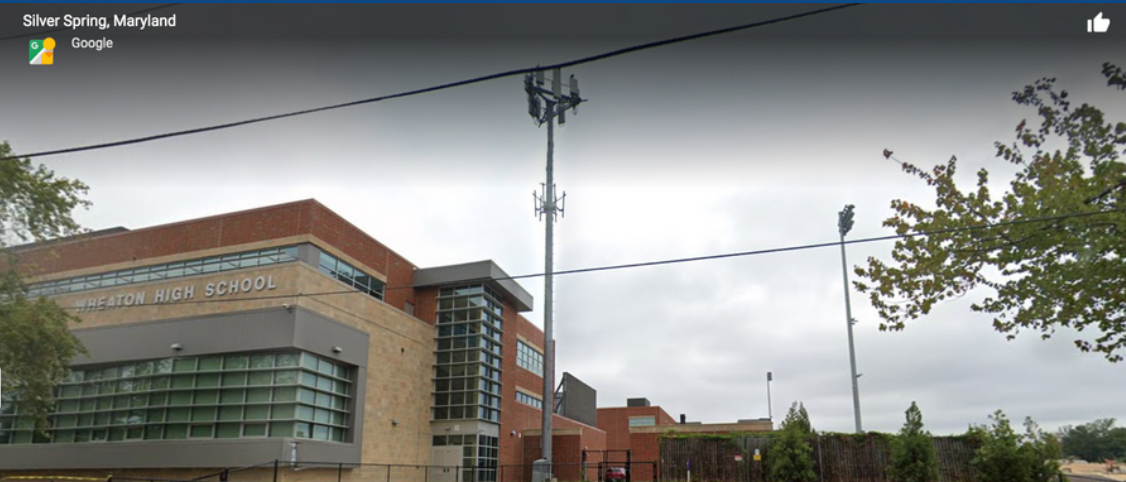
- 500 meter buffer recommended for schools to reduce liability and minimize risk (Pearce 2019)
- A moratorium on 5G pending safety research (Frank 2020)
- A precautionary approach is better suited to State obligations under international human rights law (Roda and Perry 2014)
- Increased cancer deaths near cell antennas (Rodrigues 2021)
- Studies find: DNA Damage (Zothansiana 2017), Diabetes (Meo 2015), Cognitive effects (Meo 2018), sleep problems and headaches (Abdel-Rassoul 2007, Levitt & Lai 2010, Shahbazi-Gahrouei 2013)

# PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS OPPOSE CELL TOWERS

Silver Spring, Maryland



Google



## **CONEJO PTA WANTS CELL TOWER MOVED** **Op-ed in Thousand Oaks Acorn Journal**

The California PTA advocates on behalf of children and families. They advocate against electromagnetic field radiation your schools.

The Conejo PTA urges the use of the precautionary principle in making decisions regarding public health this means if something cannot be proven to be safe it is best to avoid exposure. Most people don't realize that the 1996 FCC state standards for safe levels of omission was actually based on a level set by the American national standards institute in 1982. Well this standard has not been changed in 30 years it has usurped all local authority."

"For this reason, Conejo Council PTA made up of 9000 parents and teachers has decided to take action. We're calling on our local leaders to put in place policies that would ensure parents are notified when cell towers are propose near schools and then encourage a buffer zone around schools."

-Kim Huber, legislative chair of the Conejo Council PTA.

## **NEW YORK STATE PTA** **-Adopted TWO Resolutions 2014**

"CELLULAR PHONE TOWERS – 2014 (R-'07, R-'00); Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation that would encourage local communities, including parents and school officials, to regulate the placement of cell towers and cell tower antennas particularly in schools and areas where children congregate,

and be it further Resolved that the New York State PTA support continued research into the long-term effects of radio frequency and microwave frequencies on humans especially as they apply to children, and be it further Resolved that the New York State PTA seek to educate parents and school officials as to the current debate over the placement of cell towers and antennas."

### **NEELSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA (MD)**

- Voted to oppose proposed cell tower.
- Hosted parent information session with both the cell tower company and Environmental Health Trust.

### **HILLSMERE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA (MD)**

- Sent letters to the school board in opposition to cell towers near the school.

### **BRIARLAKE ELEMENTARY (GA)**

- Voted to oppose cell tower after board approved towers on schools.

### **PACIFIC GROVE (CA) PTAs**

- Forest Grove Elementary Pacific Grove Middle School and Pacific Grove High School PTAs sent a letter to City Council opposing a high school cell tower.

# PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

# OPPOSE CELL TOWERS

Agenda No. 11A Attachment B  
Exhibit A Page 46 of 186

August 6, 2018

Pacific Grove City Council  
City Hall  
300 Forest Ave.  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Dear members of Pacific Grove City Council,

I am writing you on behalf of Pacific Grove High School PTA in regard to the Pacific Grove Planning Commission's vote on July 26, 2018, which approved a request by Verizon Wireless to install and maintain a cell tower adjacent to Pacific Grove High School (PGHS). For the reasons described below, the Pacific Grove High School PTA **is strongly opposed** to the location of the Verizon cell tower and is requesting that the City Council consider and support the appeal that is being filed by a group of concerned parents who live in Pacific Grove and send their children to PG schools.

The installment of a cell tower adjacent to PGHS poses significant potential health dangers to both students and staff at PGHS. While some argue that radiation emitted from a cell tower is not a health danger, data from many studies indicate the opposite. Research shows that children and pregnant women are the most vulnerable – two demographics most likely to be on PGHS school grounds on a regular basis. The actual placement of the cell tower – near the back of PGHS and very close to Forest Grove Elementary School – only increases the concerns of the frequency in exposure.

Cell towers also pose a risk to students due to fire hazard. Many cell towers throughout the United States have caught fire and collapsed, posing a significant safety concern, especially in an area with young students walking to and from school every day.

The mission of all PTAs nationwide is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Our local PTA is very active in expressing our support for or opposition to issues dealing with the health, safety, education, or general well-being of children and youth in our community.

The members of the Pacific Grove High School PTA strongly urge you to please reconsider the Pacific Grove Planning Commission's previous vote and rescind approval for the Verizon cell tower at Pacific Grove High School.

Sincerely,

Julie Kavanaugh  
President, Pacific Grove High School PTA