**Living Schoolyards Act**

*Advocacy Letter Template- Student Outreach to Members of Congress*

Green Schoolyards America

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to tell you about the Living Schoolyards Act and why schoolyards are important to kids like me. I hope you will decide to support the bill.

I am a (#) grade student at (x) school here in (city and state). Everyday I go outside to have recess on my schoolyard. It’s all pavement and the only activities I can do are fast ball games. When it's hot out, which is more and more often, I get so tired and dehydrated as there are no trees for me to rest under. When I go outside to my schoolyard, I don’t feel the love and care that I feel inside the school. I really wish we could have a beautiful park as our playground, with trees and other plants, a garden, or maybe some rocks or logs to hop along.

I have been learning about other schoolyards around the United States and the world and I have seen some really fun ideas. In some schools, there are ponds and forests, as well as streams and water play areas. There are big rocks to jump off of, slides along the hillsides, and swings of different types. And in some schools, I saw colorful gardens and big green trees shading the schoolyard where kids play.

Seeing these other schoolyards in other states and around the world makes me think we can do something different at my school. I am really happy to learn that the Living Schoolyards Act would give schools money to plan and build new schoolyards and students like me a chance to share our ideas. I hope you will support this bill so that my school can build a beautiful and fun place for me and my classmates to learn and play.

Sincerely,

Name

City, State

| *Dear Students and Teachers,*  *Please make this letter your own, especially the two middle paragraphs. Describe what your schoolyard looks like, what kids can do there, and what you wish you could do. For example: You might wish you could be cool and comfortable, do science experiments, art projects, reading, writing, play and build things, hang out with friends, grow food, eat lunch --all outside in your schoolyard.* |
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