



PRESS CONTACT:

Barbara Hodgson, (310) 915-7123
Hodgson Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Linda Chipperfield, (202) 872-4324
Green Seal/Vice President of Marketing

**GREEN SEAL SETS LEADERSHIP STANDARDS FOR GREEN-
CLEANING SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

*More than 5 million students are impacted in New York and Illinois by
Green Clean School Legislation*

Washington, DC —September 10, 2008. Back in the day, *green* in schools referred to “green-boards” and the three Rs referred to basic learning skills — Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic. But in today’s *green* culture, teachers describe the three Rs in a much different way—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle—and state legislators have voted in Green Clean Schools Acts recognizing the health and learning benefits of schools adopting green-cleaning programs.

The states of New York (Sept. 1, 2006) and Illinois (May 9, 2008) have enacted Green Clean Schools Acts requiring elementary and secondary schools to use environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products. *Green* schools legislation will impact students equally: in New York 2.7 million students and in Illinois 2.035 million students.* Not far behind are the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, California and Washington; their legislators are considering similar bills that would require statewide green cleaning in schools as well.

Green Seal, the premiere ecolable in the US, is sited in both pieces of legislation. “Green Seal is proud to be able to help schools offer more protection for a vulnerable population, our children, and provide a healthier environment for them to learn,” said Dr. Arthur B. Weissman, President and CEO, of Green Seal, Inc. “We feel it is critical to

make sure our schools use products and practices that are environmentally sustainable so as to minimize or eliminate exposure to toxic chemicals for students, teachers and custodial workers.”

Green Seal has developed two leadership standards for green school programs: GS-37, Environmental Standard for Industrial and Institutional Cleaners, and GS-42, Environmental Standard for Cleaning Services. GS-37 has just been revised, according to Dr. Weissman, to better protect vulnerable populations such as children, based on new technologies and information regarding exposures and asthmagens. And the requirements for a green cleaning service are well defined by GS-42. The standard establishes criteria for both in-house and external cleaning services. www.greenseal.org

Green Cleaning School Programs, passed into law by the states of New York and Illinois, identify six categories of cleaning products which schools will be required to purchase *green*: bathroom cleaners, carpet cleaners, general purpose and hard floor surface cleaners, glass, window and mirror cleaners, hand cleaners and hand soaps and paper products.

These States require *green* cleaning products be certified by internationally recognized environmental programs like Green Seal and Environmental Choice of Canada.

About Green Seal Inc.

Green Seal, a non-profit based in Washington D.C., has been identifying consumer and institutional products and services that protect the environment from toxic chemicals, noxious fumes and wasted resources since 1989. Green Seal— at the start of the modern environmental movement—is the first non-profit certifier (ecolabel) in the U.S. and has developed over 30 standards and certified more than 3,000 products and services. Using a transparent, life-cycle assessment based labeling system; Green Seal guides consumers and purchasers to make the right choice.

*Information and Reporting Services, New York State Education Department
State Analysis, Illinois State Board of Education