CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION

721 Capitol Mall
Sacramento
CA 95814
Phone: (916) 657-4766
Fax: (916) 657-4975

DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

August 7, 2001

Dear District and County Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

Study of Environmental Conditions in California's Portable Classrooms

This past spring, the State Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) asked schools in your district to complete surveys for the California Portable Classrooms Study. We appreciate the efforts of those who participated. I am writing now to request your support for, and participation in, Phase II of the study. In Phase II, ARB and DHS, with assistance from the Research Triangle Institute (RTI), will conduct a field study at a subset of the schools previously surveyed. Phase II activities will be conducted this fall and winter, and will require minimal effort on the part of district and school staff. Because schools in your district are among those selected for Phase II, I ask that you actively participate in the study as requested in the enclosed materials.

The findings from the California Portable Classrooms Study will form the primary basis for recommendations that ARB and DHS must make to the Governor and the Legislature in June 2002 regarding ways to remedy and prevent unhealthful conditions found in portable classrooms. As you may know, the State is facing rising concerns about environmental health conditions in California portable classrooms. The information that ARB and DHS gather in this study will help determine whether publicized problems are isolated occurrences or system-wide concerns, and whether state-level assistance is needed to address them.

If you have any questions regarding the sampling schedule or study plans, please contact the ARB, DHS, or RTI contacts indicated in the enclosed materials. You can also find further information about the study at the following web site: http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/pcs/pcs.htm.

I appreciate your assistance in supporting the California Portable Classrooms Study. The success of this study is important to the health of California school children.

Sincerely,

Delaine Eastin

DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DE:db/ss

Enclosures

cc: Jed Waldman, Chief Indoor Air Quality Program, DHS
Peggy Jenkins, Manager, Indoor Exposure Assessment Section, ARB