



Wireless Technology

International Actions to Minimize Exposures to Children

France:

- [2013 The French National Assembly](#) passed an amendment **banning** WiFi from nursery Schools and strongly discouraging Wi-Fi in their schools until its proven “**safe for human consumption.**”
- [2011 French Cell Phone Statute](#): Merchants must display SAR Radiation levels for different phone models, all phones must be sold with a headset, cell phone ads aimed at children younger than 14 are banned and phones made for children under 6 are banned.
- 2013 The National Agency for Health, Food and Environmental Safety [Report](#) recommends hands free phones, SAR labeling, and “limiting the population's exposure to radiofrequencies... especially for children and intensive users, and controlling the overall exposure that results from relay antennas.”
- [The French National Library](#) along with other libraries in Paris, and a number of universities have removed all Wi-Fi networks.
- [Herouville-Saint-Clair](#) has removed all Wi-Fi equipment installed in municipal facilities. Priority was given to schools. WiFi is replaced in almost all schools by fiber optic cable.

Belgium: [Federal Public Health Regulations](#) on March 2013 due to Health Concerns for Children.

- Phones designed for children under 7 years old are prohibited from sale.
- Total Advertising Ban on cell phones aimed at children younger than 14.
- Mandatory Radiation SAR levels must be available for Consumers.

Australia: In 2013 the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency issued [Fact Sheet 14: How to Reduce exposure from mobile phones and other wireless devices](#).

- Reduce the risk from WiFi devices by “keeping them at a distance, for example placing the wireless router away from where people spend time”, and “reducing the amount of time you use them”.
- “ARPANSA recommends that parents encourage their children to limit their exposure.”

Austria: “The official advice of the [Public Health Department of the Salzburg Region](#) is not to use WLAN and DECT in Schools or Kindergartens.” -Gerd Oberfeld, MD.

Switzerland: [The Governing Council of Thurgau Canton](#) 2008 “The Governing Council recommends for schools to forgo the use of wireless networks when the structural makeup of a given school building allows for a wired network.”

European Environment Agency: “All reasonable measures to be taken to reduce exposures to electromagnetic fields, especially radiofrequencies from mobile phones and particularly the exposures to children and young adults. Current exposure limits to be reconsidered.”

[Resolution 1815: 2011 The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:](#)

- A call to European governments to “take all reasonable measures” to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields “particularly the exposure to children and young people who seem to be most at risk from head tumours.”
- Implement information campaigns about the risk of biological effects on the environment and human health, especially targeting children and young people of reproductive age.
- “For children in general, and particularly in schools and classrooms, give preference to wired Internet connections, and strictly regulate the use of mobile phones by schoolchildren on school premises.”

India: 2012 The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology issued [EMF guidelines](#) with Exposure Limit lowered to 1/10 of the ICNIRP level, SAR labels on phones, and recommendations for Headsets, limiting use, increasing distance from devices, and decreasing exposures .

- 2013: [Supreme Court of India](#) upholds a decision of the High Court of the State of Rajasthan to remove all cell towers from the vicinity of schools, colleges, hospitals and playgrounds because of radiation “hazardous to life.”

Israel: [The Israeli Ministry Of Education](#) has issued guidelines limiting WiFi and Cell phone use in schools.

- Pre-schools and kindergartens have banned the use of wireless networks.
- A **hard wired direct cable connection is recommended** and according to recent reports schools are in the process of converting their wireless infrastructure to cable connections.
- [The Israeli Supreme Court](#) ordered the Israeli Government to investigate the number of children currently suffering from sensitivities to wireless radiation.
- In second and third grade classes use of the internet is restricted to one hour per day.
- [The Education Ministry](#) has instructed all schools to perform radiation tests.
- Israel's Minister of Health **Rabi Litzman** stated that he supports a ban on Wi-Fi in schools.

Germany: [The German Federal Ministry](#) for Radiation Protection: "in view of the regulated limits supplementary precautionary measures such as wired cable alternatives are to be preferred to the WLAN system."

- [Bavaria:](#) The State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs: "For precautionary reasons the Federal Office for Radiation Protection recommends for schools that if a wireless network is used to place its components in suitable locations and to prefer the use of wired network solutions whenever possible." In 2007 Parliament issued a recommendation to all schools in the Land to not install wireless LAN networks.
- [Frankfurt:](#) "In Frankfurt's schools there will be no wireless networks in the short or mid term. The Local Education Authority did not wish to conduct a "large scale human experiment," said Michael Damian, spokesperson of the Head of the School Department Jutta Ebeling.

Russia: [The Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection](#) (RNCNIRP) has repeatedly warned about electromagnetic radiation impacts on children and recommended WiFi not be used in schools.

- "Thus, for the first time in the human history, children using mobile telecommunications along with the adult population are included into the health risk group due to the RF EMF exposure."
- "In children, the amount of so-called stem cells is larger than in adults and the stem cells were shown to be the most sensitive to RF EMF exposure."
- "It is reasonable to set limits on mobile telecommunications use by children and adolescents, including ban on all types of advertisement of mobile telecommunications for children. "

“The benefits of mobile telecommunications are many but such benefits need to be accompanied by consideration of the possibility of widespread harms.”
-[The European Environment Agency's](#) “Late Lessons from Early Warnings, Volume II” 2013 Report which details the accumulating science on radio frequency radiation and the significant potential risks of waiting.

Parent Teacher Organizations

2013 [Canadian Teacher Federation's](#) Brief (200,000 elementary and secondary school teachers)

- “CTF is concerned about the lack of definitive research regarding the adverse health effects of Wi-Fi.
- “We propose a prudent approach to the use of Wi-Fi, especially where children are present.”
- “We recommend an education program regarding the relative safety of Wi-Fi exposure and that appropriate resources be developed to educate the public regarding ways to avoid potential exposure risks of Wi-Fi access points and devices.”
- “Pedagogical needs could be met in schools with an approach that limits exposure to Wi-Fi.”

2013 [United Teachers of Los Angeles](#), representing 40,000 teachers and staff

- Resolution passed: “I move that UTLA will abide by current National NEA Policy for Environmentally Safe Schools which states that all employees and stakeholders should be informed when there are changes in their exposure to environmental hazards including electromagnetic radiation and that all stakeholders and the public should be notified of any actual and potential hazards.”

[Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario](#) - over 76,000 teachers

- Label the location Of Wi-Fi access points.
- Develop a hazard control program related to wireless microwave radiation through JHSC.

2012 [The Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association](#) (45,000 Ontario teachers)

- Recommends a wired infrastructure as WIFI “may present a potential Health and Safety risk or hazard in the workplace...The safety of this technology has not thoroughly been researched and therefore the precautionary principle and prudent avoidance of exposure should be practiced.”

2010 [Greater Victoria Teachers' Association](#)

- Wi-Fi free zones should be available.
- On/Off routers recommended and record any adverse Wi-Fi health effects.
- Minimal or non-use within elementary schools.

2013 [BC Teachers Federation](#) adopted Wireless Resolutions and Proposed Resolutions

- Proposed Resolutions “the World Health Organization's classification of radiofrequency/electromagnetic fields emitted by wireless devices as a 2B possible cancer risk to humans; that the BCTF ensures all teachers have the right to work in a safe environment, including the right to work in a Wi-Fi/ wireless-free environment.”

2013 [The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils](#) (BCCPAC) of 821 Advisory Councils representing over 500,000 parents in British Columbia passed two resolutions.

- Resolution 17 "calls on each Board of Education to have one public school at each education level that is free of Wi-Fi, cordless phones and cell phones. This school will only be equipped with wired computers and wired telephones for personal, educational and administrative purposes."
- Resolution 18 calls on Boards of Education to "cease to install Wi-Fi and other wireless networks in schools where other networking technology is feasible." passed with a clear majority.

2011 [Saanich School District](#) on Victoria Island, BC

- No Wi-Fi in elementary schools.

“The National Education Association believes that 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.” **Section C-19 of the NEA [2013-2014 Resolutions](#)**

Examples of Schools Minimizing WIFI

January 2014: The [St. Augustine School](#) in Italy turned off Wi-Fi and goes back to Wires.

2013 Winlaw Elementary School, B.C. Canada turned off WiFi.

2013 New Zealand Te Horo Primary School Replaced WIFI with cable-based internet.

2013 Kootenay Lakes District School Board BC (One school without Wi-Fi)

2013 Blaise-Cendrars High School, Switzerland. Teachers vote to remove WiFi.

2012 Kivioja primary school in Ylivieska Finland bans phones and minimizes Wireless.

2011 Aurora School in Ontario removed Wifi and replaced with hardwired.

2011 North Cariboo Christian School in Quesnel, B.C., removed Wi-fi .

2011 Saanich School District has banned WiFi in all elementary schools.

2011 Pretty River Academy in Ontario no WiFi.

2011 Wayside Academy, Peterborough, Ontario no Wi Fi.

2010 Surrey, BC Roots and Wings Montessori removed Wi-Fi.

2010 Ontario St. Vincent Euphrasia elementary school: Parents voted to turn off Wi-Fi.

2009 HEROUVILLE-SAINT-CLAIR wi-fi networks removed.