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# Bronx mother Naomi Gor over PCBs in public scho

BY [BILL EGBERT](#) / DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER / Wednesday, Ma

A year after a Daily News investigation exposed high levels of lead paint in nine New York City school buildings, a Bronx mother of two is taking legal action against the city.

**Naomi Gonzalez** plans to file a notice of claim against the city next week, charging that the city's refusal to remove caulk containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from her children's school.

Emelina, 6, and Devin, 11, attend P.S. 159 in the Bronx. Tests commissioned by The News found PCB levels in their school nearly 2,000 times higher than the threshold allowed by state law.

"This is about the health of my children," Gonzalez said. "They go to school every day in a building that is not safe for them to go to, and make them sick. I'm furious that the city has known about this for so long and has done nothing."

Tests of nine public school buildings in the Bronx found PCBs in six of them. The highest levels were found at P.S. 159, where levels were 225,000 parts per million.

Anything with more than 50 ppm of PCBs is considered unsafe.

federal law.

Following The News' report last April that the city had failed to remove asbestos-contaminated schools, but never responded to a lawsuit by New York Lawyers for the Environment to remove any caulk with PCBs.

The schools tested by The News were found to have asbestos-causing dust. Caulking was commonly used in construction of buildings in the 1970s, so buildings are at risk of being contaminated.

Federal Environmental Protection Agency Children's Health Protection Advisor Dr. Linda S. Schlessinger said the agency is leaving PCB caulk in schools.

The dust can lead to developmental problems. It can affect growing children at much lower levels than adults.

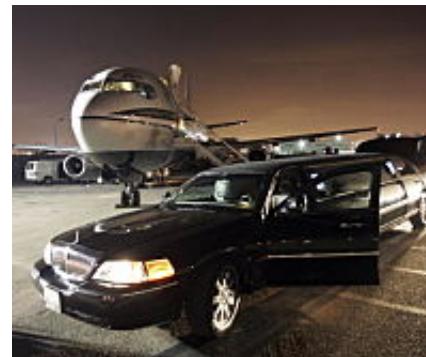
Even though the city is technically liable under the law, the EPA has not cracked down. Agency officials acknowledged the problem last summer but did not require the city to fix it.

The Education Department maintained that it does not have authority over asbestos removal. The city declined to comment on the issue.

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