

National Post

Loud classrooms stress out teachers and hamper students, audiologists say

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Noisy classrooms are preventing children from learning and are taking a health toll on teachers, say experts who want Ottawa to adopt sound standards for new schools and make improvements to existing ones. "Excessive background noise and poor acoustics can lead to poor understanding of the speech signal, decreased performance by students, reading deficiencies, delayed language acquisition and many other negative consequences," Linda Walsh, president of the Canadian Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists, said at a news conference yesterday. Her association is one of 18 that make up the Concerned About Classrooms Coalition, and it says the absence of standardized classroom acoustics is a gap that must be filled. One in six words is not understood by the average Grade 1 student because of poor acoustics, the group says.