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National News Briefs; Teachers' Union Seeks To Shut a 'Sick School'

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A teachers' union here in southeastern Pennsylvania has asked a judge to shut down an elementary school with air quality troubles that some officials say are causing health problems.

In a lawsuit filed last Friday in Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, the union, the Pottsgrove Federation of Teachers, seeks an order requiring the Pottsgrove School District to conduct tests in the Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School and then shut the building until the results are analyzed.

The suit says pupils and staff members at the school have suffered "respiratory problems, acute headaches, eye irritation, lightheadedness, nausea, skin irritations, including severe itching and rashes, and impaired mental ability."

A mold, aspergillus, was recently found in about 1,700 library books at Lower Pottsgrove Elementary, built in 1931, and since the fall of 1999 district officials have been receiving health complaints about the air quality there. A series of tests and more than \$600,000 in

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