



Every day, nearly 55 million students in the U.S. are exposed to mold, viruses, particulate matter, and other pollutants in school buildings where they spend half of their waking hours. Good indoor air quality (IAQ) in schools can improve health outcomes, improve academic performance and increase productivity of students and staff.

K-12 schools nationwide can take action to improve their indoor environments by participating in the Clean Air School Challenge (CASC). CASC provides schools with a structured path to develop, implement and maintain an Energy Efficient Indoor Air Quality Management Plan, an effective tool in maintaining good indoor environments.

Whether a school is just beginning or has already developed a plan, CASC can help. CASC is designed to meet schools where they are in their journey of addressing indoor air quality, from assessment and planning through to implementation.

Learn more or sign up today at Lung.org/CASC

Clean Air in Schools Makes Sense

Improving indoor air quality in school can:

- #1:** Boost student attendance
- #2:** Increase student and staff performance
- #3:** Improve teacher retention and recruitment
- #4:** Reduce dependence on substitute teachers
- #5:** Improve longevity and operation of HVAC and other mechanical systems

...and it makes “cents” by saving your school money



Benefits of the Clean Air School Challenge

Schools that join the Clean Air School Challenge will have access to:

- Education and Training
- Recognition
- Technical Assistance
- Peer Mentorship
- Mini-grants*
- Learning Cohorts*
- Access to other Lung Association Programs

*application process

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Why Join the Clean Air School Challenge

By participating, schools can improve their learning environment through the development of an Energy Efficient Indoor Air Quality Management Plan.

What is Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)?

Indoor air quality refers to the air quality within and around buildings and structures, especially as it relates to the health and comfort of building occupants. Ventilation, temperature, humidity, occupancy, building age and design and pollutants—like mold, fumes, smoke, gasses and chemicals—all influence indoor air quality.

Why Should Schools Prioritize Indoor Air Quality?

Poor indoor air quality is detrimental to student performance and attendance. It is linked to cognitive impacts including decreased focus, attention span, concentration, comprehension and response time. Exposure to poor indoor air quality can also lead to adverse health effects such as headaches, dizziness, irritation of eyes, nose or throat and an increase in asthma and allergy symptoms. This may result in student and teacher absenteeism.

There are roughly 100,000 school buildings in use in the US. Schools face unique IAQ challenges because they have:

- Four times more occupants than homes or offices
- Multiple processes and chemicals
- Limited budgets
- Potential deferred maintenance
- Aging infrastructure

1 in 6 people

in the U.S. attend or work
in a school

Students spend about

half their waking hours

in a school

Levels of indoor air pollutants are

2-5 times higher

than outdoors

What is an Energy Efficient Indoor Air Quality Management Plan?

An Energy Efficient Indoor Air Quality Management Plan is a written document that details policies and procedures that promote good indoor air quality and reduce energy use. Having a Plan can lead to better health for students, teachers and staff, increased capacity for learning and savings in long term operations and facility costs.

How does a school sign up?

Signing up by a principal, vice principal or facility director is simple. By signing up, a school indicates their willingness to assess their building's indoor air quality and develop an Energy Efficient Indoor Air Quality Management Plan.

To sign up or find more information about the importance of clean air in schools, visit Lung.org/CASC