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CLEAN AIR

Allies

Dear Clean Air Ally,

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our March Zoom Meet and Greet! It was a pleasure to interact with many of you. We look forward to hosting another Zoom event in coming months.

Please read on for:

- **A Williams Campaign reminder**
- **An update on AB 832, the CalSHAPE (school HVAC grants) extension bill**
- **An IAQ-related grant opportunity for schools**
- **Recently published research on air pollution and school absenteeism**
- **Exciting news for Clean Air Allies**

While this is a challenging time for schools, with a great deal of uncertainty, we will continue to make the case for prioritizing clean air for health and learning. We have a number of projects underway that we're excited about and can't wait to share in coming months. As ever, we're grateful for your commitment to this issue and interest in our work.

In Solidarity,

JuNelle + Liesl

JuNelle Harris and Liesl McConchie

California Parents and Co-Founders, Clean Air Allies

Reminder: Williams Campaign

Throughout 2025, Clean Air Allies will be celebrating the anniversary of *Williams v. California*. This lawsuit and settlement involved California schoolchildren's state constitutional claims for safe and healthy facilities and the accountability mechanisms created by the State in response, which remain in effect today.

We invite you to learn more about rights and accountability around California public school facilities by looking for a [Williams classroom notice](#). In coming months, we'll be dropping more Williams-related content, including a policy paper and a Williams complaint toolkit.

FIND THE NOTICE IN YOUR CLASSROOM!

Next time you're in a (non-charter) California public school classroom, see if you can spot a Williams Notice.

DID YOU KNOW?

Williams Notices are required as part of the settlement of a lawsuit brought against the State of California by Eliezer Williams and nearly 100 other schoolchildren. They argued that they'd been denied their state constitutional right to an equal education, including by the State's failure to ensure safe and healthy school facilities.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

PLEASE SHARE YOUR WILLIAMS NOTICE FINDINGS

If you're an adult family member, teacher, school employee, community member, or student age 13+, we invite you to share your Williams Notice findings and photos* with us at <https://forms.gle/mmkrKzE25dCU1EsA6>.

If you can't find a Williams Notice, we'd like to hear that, too.

*If you take a photo, please no people in it, and be sure to respect school rules.

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Find the Notice in Your Classroom is part of a campaign by Clean Air Allies to help increase engagement around Williams to improve indoor air and other conditions in school facilities. You can learn more and sign up for updates at <https://cleanairallies.org/project/>.

Learn More About Our Williams Campaign

Update on AB 832 - CalSHAPE Extension Bill

Since our March newsletter, [AB 832 \(Muratsuchi\)](#) has been amended to focus squarely on extension of the California Schools Healthy Air, Plumbing, and Efficiency Program (CalSHAPE). [CalSHAPE](#) was created by AB 841 (Ting, 2020) to award school districts grants to conduct HVAC and IAQ assessments; install classroom CO2 monitors and MERV-13 filters; and undertake HVAC maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. AB 832 proposes to extend CalSHAPE's current January 1, 2027 sunset date by 4 years, allowing for more time for remaining program funds to go to schools.

Though approximately \$190 million in unencumbered program funds remain, applications have been closed since July 1, 2024, due to efforts to take the funds to use for small utility ratepayer credits.

AB 832 is currently in the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee. Our understanding is that the Committee's Chair, Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, is refusing to schedule the bill for a hearing due to her preference that CalSHAPE funds go toward small utility ratepayer credits rather than to schools. Petrie-Norris was the author of AB 3121, the failed attempt to revert CalSHAPE program funds last year.

If AB 832 is not heard by May 2, it cannot advance. Unfortunately, in California, [a committee chair can effectively kill a bill by refusing to schedule it for a hearing](#).

Clean Air Allies has submitted a letter in support of AB 832 to the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee. You can read it [here](#).

If you'd like to advocate for CalSHAPE funds to be spent on schools, you can submit a comment in favor of AB 832 via the California Legislature's [Position Letter Portal](#) or call the office(s) of one or more [members of the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee](#).

School IAQ Grant Opportunity Applications Due May 15

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), in partnership with the Go Green Initiative (GGI), is accepting applications for an EPA-funded program to improve IAQ and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in U.S. low-income and Tribal school districts. School districts with 50% or more students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch or reside in a Tribal community are eligible to apply.

Ten (10) school districts will be selected to receive on-the-ground technical assistance and \$50,000 in grant funding to enact an IAQ management plan.

Applications are due **May 15, 2025**. Awards will be announced on June 16, 2025. Onboarding will begin in Summer 2025, with work commencing on September 1, 2025.

The application appears to be quite straightforward. More details and a link to the application are available at: <https://www.nsba.org/resources/iaqassessment>.

[Learn More About the Grant](#)

New NBER Working Paper on Pollution and School Attendance and Discipline Issues

In March 2025, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) issued a working paper by Sarah Chung, Claudia Persico, and Jing Liu titled "[The Effects of Daily Air Pollution on Students and Teachers](#)." The working paper reports research finding a significant relationship between daily ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels and elementary and secondary

school student absences, student office discipline referrals, and teacher absences in a large California urban school district. Notably, the authors observed a “dose-dependent relationship between air pollution and absences,” with Black, Hispanic, low-income, and younger student populations more susceptible to air pollution’s adverse effects. They conclude that “Policymakers could consider improving school ventilation using High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters to mitigate these risks,” particularly in “schools serving socioeconomically disadvantaged and younger students.”

We welcome any thoughts you have about this working paper.

Clean Air Allies Gains Formal Nonprofit Status through Fiscal Sponsorship

We’re delighted to announce that on March 4, 2025, Clean Air Allies was granted fiscal sponsorship by an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE). While Clean Air Allies has always operated in a nonprofit manner, being under SEE’s umbrella means that we are now able to apply for grants and accept tax-exempt [donations](#) to advance our clean air advocacy and outreach efforts.

Any support is greatly appreciated!

[Donate to Clean Air Allies](#)

For any questions, please contact us at cleanairalliesorg@gmail.com.

CLEAN AIR
Allies

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