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CLEAN AIR

Allies

Dear Clean Air Ally,

Thank you for your interest in our work to advance school indoor air quality (IAQ). Since joining forces in fall 2023, we've spent many hours connecting with other stakeholders, investigating barriers to access to clean air in schools, and brainstorming how to tackle them through improved awareness, policy, and accountability. We're delighted to have you join us as we continue on our journey to help build a clean air movement.

In Solidarity,

JuNelle + Liesl

JuNelle Harris and Liesl McConchie
California Parents and Co-Founders, Clean Air Allies

Join Us for a Zoom Meet and Greet

Wednesday, March 19, 6-7 pm PT

Please join us for an informal meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, March 19, beginning at 6 pm. We'd like to get to know you and your clean air-related concerns better as well as share more about our work and theory of change around IAQ in schools. [Click below to register.](#)

Learn More About Our Williams Campaign

Sign Up to Receive an Invite to Participate in Our California-Focused Discord Community

Clean Air Allies in California are invited to join the Discord Community for our California Alliance for Clean Air in Schools initiative. The focus will be on information sharing, capacity building, and outreach and advocacy to improve IAQ in California PK-12 schools. If you'd like to receive an invite, please [click on the button below](#).

Get A Discord Invite

New School IAQ-Related California Bill: AB 832

On February 19, [AB 832](#) was introduced by California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi. If passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom, the bill would extend by 4 years the operation of the [California Schools Healthy Air, Plumbing, and Efficiency \(CalSHAPE\) Program](#), which is currently set to wind down in late 2026. According to public records obtained from the California Energy Commission (CEC), which administers CalSHAPE, in December 2024, approximately \$190 million remained in the CalSHAPE fund.

In recent years, CalSHAPE has been the most significant source of state-level funding for school IAQ assessments and HVAC maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. As part of our California Alliance for Clean Air in Schools initiative, Clean Air Allies has been involved in [outreach](#) to encourage school districts to apply for CalSHAPE and in [advocacy](#) to make sure the monies collected in the CalSHAPE fund go out to schools.

In fall 2024, we joined with other stakeholders to defeat AB 3121, which would have raided CalSHAPE monies for a small utility ratepayer credit. As a result of that effort, approximately

\$170 million went out to school districts whose applications for grant awards for IAQ assessments and HVAC work had been frozen.

AB 832 also contains a cursory section related to potential school IAQ “standards, guidelines, and recommendations,” but there are questions about what this would mean in practice and whether it is politically viable.

Clean Air Allies is in communication with Assemblymember Muratsuchi’s office and other state-level stakeholders. Please watch out for future updates.

Featured School IAQ Resources

Free IAQ Video Lessons from UC Davis and CDPH

The University of California, Davis College of Engineering and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have collaborated to create [thirty-one free video lessons](#) covering a wide variety of IAQ topics, ranging from IAQ basics to IAQ threats like infectious pathogens and wildfire smoke to IAQ assessment and improvement technologies. The lessons are presented by UC Davis IAQ experts Richard Corsi, Chris Cappa, and Theresa Pistoichini. While designed for facilities managers, they also are of interest to members of the general public who care about IAQ.

California IAQ Guidance for Schools

In Q4 2024, California agencies put out two sets of school IAQ-related guidance.

In October, the California Department of Education (CDE), along with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), released “[Guidelines for Schools and Wildfire Smoke](#).” This updated guidance states that “All children are considered sensitive to the health effects of air pollution because their lungs and immune systems are still developing” and includes new Air Quality Index (AQI)-based outdoor activity limitation thresholds.

CDPH also issued updated “[Improving Indoor Air Quality in Schools](#)” guidance in November 2024. In it, CDPH “recommends providing a minimum of at least 5 air changes per hour or 30 cfm/occupant of equivalent clean airflow, whichever is greater, in occupied classroom environments.”

Both documents include resources and strategies to help schools follow the guidance.

We hope to see you on [Zoom](#) on March 19, or on [Discord](#), and welcome your [Williams Notice findings and photos](#).

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

CLEAN AIR *Allies*

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