



Improving Ventilation in Missouri K-12 Schools Project Overview

Purpose

Why are we improving ventilation in schools?

Students need healthy air to be at their best for learning. Ventilation is one component of [maintaining healthy environments](#), including indoor air quality (IAQ). When indoors, proper ventilation can also help reduce viral particle concentration and the potential of spreading respiratory diseases, like COVID-19. The health and comfort of students and teachers contributes to learning and productivity in the classroom, which in turn affects performance and achievement.

The purpose of the Improving Ventilation in Missouri K-12 Schools Project is to assist Missouri K-12 public schools with improving indoor air quality in an effort to prevent or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommendations for ventilation in schools and child care](#)

How are we improving ventilation in schools?

Through the ELC Reopening Schools cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is able to provide schools with funding and resources to implement ventilation mitigation strategies.

Participation

Eligibility

To participate in the Improving Ventilation in Schools Project schools must:

- Be a Missouri public school district
- Serve students in kindergarten up to grade 12
- Have completed or agree to complete an assessment of the HVAC system in one or more school buildings students routinely occupy

Project period

DHSS will reimburse participating districts for costs incurred after the date of contract execution through July 31, 2023.

How it works

DHSS is offering Missouri public school districts contracts of up to \$160,000 to implement identified HVAC system repairs that will improve indoor air ventilation and quality. Participating districts may spend up to \$150,000 on HVAC repairs. See allowed costs for how to use the remaining funds.

School districts will complete a [survey](#) to express interest in participating in the project. DHSS staff will reach out to interested districts to review the program requirements and start the contract process. DHSS will issue funds through a cost-reimbursement contract.

DHSS expects schools/districts with an executed contract to:

- Name a district Indoor Air Quality Coordinator to oversee work through the contract
- If not already completed, have HVAC system within one or more of the district's buildings students use routinely when school is in session evaluated to identify recommended repairs or improvements
- Work with a qualified HVAC professional to make improvements/repairs to the HVAC system using evaluation findings

- Ensure IAQ team members participate in training as appropriate for their role in the program(s); DHSS will assist in identifying training opportunities
- Submit HVAC assessment recommendations, a plan of how the district will accomplish the recommendations (see work plan template), and a spending plan prior to using the funds
- Submit quarterly status reports on the progress of approved repairs and a final report summarizing work accomplished
- Submit quarterly invoices for actual expenses incurred for HVAC repairs and other contract-related expenses

HVAC Assessment

DHSS partnered with Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) Institute for Environmental Health Assessment & Patient Centered Outcomes to work with schools to provide free indoor air quality assessments and recommendations to improve air quality (IAQ Assessment Project). The Institute will also provide portable HEPA filtration units if appropriate. Visit [] for more information about the indoor air quality assessments and technical assistance available to you.

Because school districts may have completed an evaluation of their HVAC systems after January 1, 2020, participation in the IAQ Assessment Project is not required for receiving these funds.

Allowed costs

DHSS will reimburse the following:

- **Personnel and fringe benefits** for IAQ Coordinator or other district staff's time involved in implementing the project, including attending training
- **Supplies** including portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation – must be evidence-based or CDC recommended and have DHSS prior approval; HEPA replacement filters
- Cost of repairs or improvements made to HVAC systems as approved in the work plan up to \$150,000; must also have a completed air quality assessment with recommendations for repairs or improvements or agree to complete an assessment prior to spending funds for HVAC repairs
- **Travel and registration costs** for staff to attend training with prior approval

Disallowed costs

DHSS **will not** reimburse purchase of:

- Items or services already provided
- Antigen tests
- Food
- Non-evidence-based or CDC-recommended supplies or equipment related to COVID-19 mitigation
- Fees for HVAC assessment, unless DHSS gives prior written approval
- Items or services incurred outside of the contract period

Additional indoor air quality resources

Schools can act to protect the health of their students and staff by reviewing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Healthy Schools" program which provides tools to assess and fix IAQ problems.

- [Environmental Protection Agency Introduction to Indoor Air Quality](https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools)
- <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools>

[Missouri Center for Education Safety](#)

Online training available—Realistic Strategies for Indoor Air Quality

For more information about the Improving Air Ventilation in K-12 Schools project, please contact Cheryl Stock at Cheryl.Stock@health.mo.gov.

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Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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IMPROVING VENTILATION IN SCHOOLS PROJECT

Work Plan

Missouri school districts participating in the Improving Ventilation in Schools Project should complete the work plan below and return the completed form to cheryl.stock@health.mo.gov. The work plan should document how the school district plans to complete repairs or improvements to the HVAC system in at least one building students routinely occupy during the school year. Please add additional rows as needed.

School District Name:
IAQ Coordinator:
Email:

School Building	HVAC Assessment Date	Repair or Improvement Planned (please list each separately)	Responsible	Anticipated Completion Date	Comments

