

## Illinois School Air Quality Should be Improved to Meet Leading Expert Guidance

*All students, teachers, and staff deserve cleaner school air*

- [Research](#) shows better school air quality is associated with:
  - **Improved:** math/reading/science scores, physical health, and attention
  - **Reduced:** absences (also for working caregivers), illness, and asthma/respiratory symptoms
- Racial, ethnic minorities and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by [asthma](#), [pollution](#), and [viral illnesses](#)
- “[Schools are chronically under ventilated](#). Most do not meet even the minimum American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) ventilation design standard”
- Experts affiliated with the Illinois ASHRAE Chapter estimate that **only 14% of classrooms in Illinois public schools** are meeting their minimum ventilation code requirements
  - [ASHRAE notes](#) these current ventilation codes are not sufficient to meet today’s challenges
  - Leading expert guidance calls for roughly **twice** this amount of clean air in classrooms

## Clean Air for Healthy Equitable Schools

*This bill, developed with and endorsed by leading experts, will significantly improve school air quality*

- Schools will immediately receive educational materials explaining the importance of cleaner air
- Within weeks, classrooms, health offices, libraries, music rooms, etc., will begin receiving:
  - Effective and quiet portable air cleaners to remove pollutants, allergens, viruses, mold, etc.
  - Digital air quality monitors to assess, manage, record, and remotely view air quality data
- Schools will then complete a professional ventilation assessment to:
  - Inspect HVAC infrastructure, verify the operation and conditions of existing systems, etc.
  - Obtain recommendations for improvements and repairs (e.g., upgrading to MERV 13 filters)
- Classrooms with no mechanical outdoor air ventilation must have windows that function properly
- We are consulting with community leaders and world-class engineers, public health officials, etc.

## A Focus on Equity

*Healthier air for schools everywhere*

- Guidance from the [IDPH & ISBE](#), [ASHRAE](#), [CDC](#), [WHO](#), [EPA](#), and [Harvard](#) calls for safer air in **all schools, not just some**
- The air cleaners can transform rooms from “**Low**” or “**Bare minimum**” amounts of clean air flow (common in schools) to “**Good**” and **beyond**
- Schools most in need will receive equipment first
  - All equipment delivered directly to schools within ~1 year



	Ideal (6 ACH)
	Excellent (5-6 ACH)
	Good (4-5 ACH)
	Bare minimum (3-4 ACH)
	Low (<3 ACH)

## Clean Air for Healthy Equitable Schools (HB3713) Endorsements

Current list of endorsements: <https://bit.ly/HB3713>

Chicago Westside Branch NAACP

Progressive Democrats of America - IL

CCCTU Local 1600 - Cook County College Teachers Union

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

Illinois Families for Public Schools

Indivisible Chicago-South Side

Activate Chicago Parents

Indoor Air Care Advocates

Barbara Norman, PhD, MPH, MSPS, MSN, Former Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health; Former President, APHA Black Caucus of Health Workers; Former Captain U.S. Army

Deanna Behrens, MD, MSME, pediatric intensivist, Park Ridge, IL; Health Policy Scholar through Academic Pediatric Association

Jason Kane, MD, MS, FAAP, FCCM, PICU Attending Physician at Comer Children's Hospital; Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago; research: quality and outcomes in pediatric patients

Zachary Rubin, MD, Pediatric allergist/immunologist, Naperville, IL

Lidia Morawska, PhD, Distinguished Professor; Director, International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health at Queensland U of Technology-a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organization; Australian Laureate Fellow; Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science; Member, The Lancet COVID-19 Commission Task Force

William Bahnfleth, PhD, PE, ASHRAE former President and Epidemic Task Force Chair; Chair of ASHRAE pathogen mitigation standard team; Fellow of ASHRAE, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the International Society for Indoor Air Quality and Climate; professor, Pennsylvania State University

Brent Stephens, PhD, MSE, indoor air quality and infectious disease transmission expert; Chair and professor, Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology

Ian Cull, CIH, PE, Founder and Chief Science Officer of Indoor Science, an Illinois-based Indoor Environmental Quality consulting firm that works with schools to improve air quality

Robin Kalish, MD, MPH, pediatrician, Naperville, IL

Maria Pyra, PhD, MPH, infectious disease epidemiologist, IL

Jim Rosenthal, past President, National Air Filtration Association; co-founder of Air Relief Technologies; voting member, ASHRAE 52.2; co-inventor of the Corsi-Rosenthal Box DIY air filter

Jose-Luis Jimenez, PhD, a top 10 most cited aerosol expert; Fellow, American Association for Aerosol Research; engineer and chemist; Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, University of Colorado Boulder

Kimberly Prather, PhD, aerosol expert; Distinguished Chair in Atmospheric Chemistry; author, "Airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2" in the journal Science; professor, University of California San Diego

Devbhaktuni Srikrishna, MS, is an MIT trained engineer, founder of PatientKnowHow.com, air filtration researcher, and has been published in the Lancet and the Journal of the American Medical Association

Robert Bean, ASHRAE Fellow & Distinguished Lecturer; founder of Indoor Climate Consultants Inc.; ASHRAE Learning Institute instructor; indoor environmental quality, Co-host Edifice Complex

PodcastUpdated list of endorsements: