



Clean Air for Schools Program



The IQAir Foundation works to bring clean air to more than 1 million children.

All too often, disadvantaged and underserved communities are disproportionately affected by adverse environmental conditions, including poor air quality. Be it a busy freeway interchange or a bustling industrial district, communities with proximity to these areas suffer from higher rates of asthma and other resulting illnesses. Children in these impacted areas suffer from respiratory illnesses at a much higher rate than others as a result of living in the most vulnerable and polluted communities.

The IQAir Foundation seeks to promote environmental justice by helping to improve environmental health conditions in neighborhoods unfairly affected by pollution as a result of economic, ethnic or racial factors. Through Clean Air for Kids, IQAir Foundation has a goal to bring air filtration to at least 120,000 additional school children every year, which supports the IQAir Foundation's overarching goal of providing clean air to more than 1 million children.



1 Million Children

Pollutants near schools

Nearly 8,000 U.S. public schools lie within 500 feet of highways, truck routes and other roads with significant traffic.*

Over 4.4 million children are exposed to pollutants every day:

- Schools located near freeways
- Homes located near freeways
- Indoor Air Quality pollutants

Sources of pollutants and emissions:

- Rail yards, major highways and roads
- CO₂ released from diesel trucks and some older cars
- Refineries and factories

* Center for Public Integrity, 2017



Prevention and Mitigation

Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention refers to the use of materials, processes, and practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants at the source of generation through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources or through the protection of natural resources by conservation. Pollution prevention is an important and essential approach that reduces waste generation and the emission of pollutants released to land, air, and water without transferring pollutants from one medium to another.

Pollution Impact Mitigation

While it can take 20 to 30 years to reduce air pollution, mitigation airborne pollution indoors can be achieved in just a couple of weeks. Note: mitigation is not a replacement for pollution prevention.



Mitigate pollution
impact





The road to becoming a Clean Air School includes these steps:

1. **Assessment and Creation of a Solutions Report:** Clean air specialists assess your school buildings and mechanical systems. A comprehensive Solutions Report including recommended technology and other actions to improve air quality and optimize heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems performance is generated.
2. **Funding Decisions:** IQAir Foundation seeks to find funding for the program. The funder weighs a decision to fund the project based on the site's distance and impact level from pollution sources, conducts a cost/benefit analysis and school's commitment to the project. If funding is awarded, the project proceeds to the next stage.
3. **Installation of one or a combination of recommended technologies:** Air cleaning and HVAC specialists install upgraded HVAC filters, standalone air filtration systems, occupancy-based HVAC energy management systems, HVAC silencers and other recommended technologies.
4. **Verification:** Air cleaning and HVAC specialists verify that your school meets the Clean Air School Requirements.
5. **Continuous monitoring and maintenance:** The school's facilities and maintenance staff is trained on the newly installed technologies, filter replacement and other maintenance requirements. The installation team continues to monitor the site throughout the designated contract period.

Thank you for your time today.

Questions?

A background image of a city skyline at dusk or dawn, with silhouettes of skyscrapers against a blue and orange sky. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the image.

Get Involved