

## Ventilation Improvement Strategies in K-12 Schools

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Ventilation is one component of maintaining healthy environments and is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy for schools. Good ventilation can reduce the airborne viral load and, along with other preventive actions, can reduce the likelihood of disease transmission.

Ways you can improve ventilation in your school:

- ✓ Bring in as much outdoor air as possible
  - If safe to do so, open windows and doors
  - Use child-safe fans to increase air circulation
  - Consider having classes and activities outdoors when possible
  - Open windows in transportation vehicles
- ✓ Ensure Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation
  - Ensure HVAC systems are serviced and meeting code as defined by [ASHRAE Standard 62.1](#)
  - Set HVAC Systems to bring in as much outdoor air as possible
  - Increase airflow to high risk spaces where other mitigations are not as effective
  - Run systems at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after occupancy
- ✓ Filter and/or clean the air using high quality HEPA or UVGI filters

KDHE has evaluated their allowances for improving ventilation in schools. Any air filtration/purification filters along with either in-duct units or portable units are still allowed in the 22-23 year. In addition, the following options can be considered when planning 22-23 year budgets.

- Inspection of HVAC systems for improvement recommendations
- Duct cleaning and sanitation
- Purchase of child-safe free-standing fans or window unit fans

The following options are related to construction or HVAC upgrades. These items should not represent significant renovation or construction and will be capped per district to allow equitable distribution of funds across the state. Each request will be determined on a case by case basis.

- Adding fans/blowers to HVAC systems
- Expanding capacity, including duct work to populated areas
- Improvements to be able to open windows or add screens (including replacement of windows, materials and construction)
- Full replacements, large upgrades (heating or cooling units), or adding systems are better served utilizing ESSER funds. A link to more information is below.

While implementing ventilation strategies, be sure to continue to take regular precautions to keep students safe, such as using fans with covers and windows with screens.

Continue to follow other mitigation strategies to help minimize spread of COVID-19, such as masking, hand washing and physical distancing.



**Additional Resources:**

[ESSER Funding Resources for Whole Scale HVAC Replacements and Upgrades](#)

**CDC Guidance and Studies:**

[CDC Guidance for Ventilation in Schools](#)

[Ventilation Improvement Strategies in Schools - MMWR](#)