

HB25-1245 HVAC Improvement Projects in Schools

Sponsors: Rep. Lieder & Rep. Hamrick



Summary

Colorado schools face critical challenges with aging infrastructure, poor indoor air quality, and inadequate ventilation systems. House Bill 25-1245 provides a structured pathway for schools to access federal and state **funding to improve heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems**. By leveraging federal resources, the bill ensures that schools can undertake necessary HVAC assessments, upgrades, and maintenance to provide safer, healthier learning environments.

The Problem

Colorado's public schools are struggling with outdated infrastructure that poses serious health and safety risks to students and staff.

- The Colorado Department of Education's Facility Insight Dashboard reports an **average school building age of 40 years**, with many facilities receiving low scores on the Facility Condition Index.
- **Poor indoor air quality** due to mold, asbestos, lead, and other contaminants leads to increased respiratory issues and absenteeism among students.
- The American Society of Civil Engineers' 2020 Infrastructure Report Card estimates a **\$14 billion funding gap** for necessary school infrastructure repairs.
- Many schools lack the **technical capacity and financial resources** to apply for and manage grant funding available at the state and federal levels.
- **Rural and underserved communities** often bear the brunt of inadequate funding, leaving students and teachers in substandard conditions.

The Solution

HB25-1245 creates a clear framework to help schools access federal and state funding for HVAC upgrades.

- ✓ **Opt-In Program**
- ✓ **Making school districts eligible for these federal and state funds**
- ✓ **Ensures that certified contractors are working on projects funded by state and federal funds**
- ✓ **Ensures the State can be flexible in drawing down federal funds in the future**
- ✓ **Improves Indoor Air Quality & Energy Efficiency**
- ✓ **Promotes Fiscal Responsibility**

By ensuring that schools have access to federal dollars and expert technical assistance, HB25-1245 helps Colorado schools modernize infrastructure, protect public health, and save money on energy costs.

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SUPPORT HB25-1245**