Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

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2024-2025 ASHRAE President

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March 17, 2025

The Honorable Albert Muratsuchi
Assemblymember, District 66
California State Assembly
1315 10th and L St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via email to: assemblymember.muratsuchi@assembly.ca.gov

Re: Assembly Bill 832, "School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program: Indoor Air Quality"

Dear Assembly member Muratsuchi:

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 55,000 members, including over 3,100 members in California, focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

ASHRAE supports the provision in this bill that would require the State Department of Education to develop indoor air quality standards, guidelines, and recommendations for school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools. ASHRAE is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that develops consensus-based building standards, including those concerning indoor air quality, which we ask you to reference in AB 832 to bolster its effectiveness: Standard 62.1-2022, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*; Standard 241-2023, *Control of Infectious Aerosols*; Standard 180-2018, *Standard Practice for Inspection and Maintenance of Commercial Building HVAC Systems*; and Guideline 44-2024, *Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burn Events.*

Indoor air quality (IAQ) can significantly affect student learning and development, and the COVID-19 pandemic increased awareness of the impacts of IAQ on student health.[1] Adhering to the most up-to-date consensus-based ASHRAE standards will help meet the objectives of good indoor air quality.

- ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2022, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*, establishes minimum ventilation rates and other measures intended to provide indoor air quality that is acceptable to human occupants and minimizes adverse health effects due to poor indoor air quality. It defines the requirements for ventilation and air-cleaning system design, installation, commissioning, and operations and maintenance. The latest edition (published in 2022) includes updates to the procedures and methods for meeting minimum ventilation and indoor air quality requirements, and improvements to the Indoor Air Quality Procedure.

- ASHRAE Standard 241-2023, *Control of Infectious Aerosols*, is a standard for buildings that is focused on airborne infection risk mitigation. Standard 241 is meant to be applied in periods of elevated risk, for example the risk of transmission of pathogens like COVID-19. It establishes minimum requirements for control of infectious aerosols to reduce the risk of disease transmission in buildings. Its requirements for ventilation are given in terms of equivalent clean air per person rather than outdoor air, which facilitates flexible use of alternatives to outdoor air to meet risk reduction goals. The equivalent clean air requirements are based on a rigorous risk assessment.

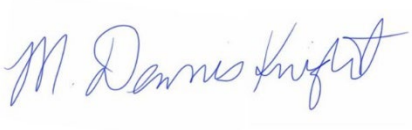
- ASHRAE Standard 180-2018, *Standard Practice for Inspection and Maintenance of Commercial Building HVAC Systems*, will help ensure that the improvements made by this program will continue to be well operated and maintained. Standard 180 gives details on how to implement inspection and maintenance practices, a list of the necessary tasks, and includes informative appendices with examples of situations in which a maintenance plan should be reviewed.

- ASHRAE Guideline 44-2024, *Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burn Events,* includes tailored recommendations for spaces occupied by at-risk groups, such as children and the elderly; best practices for new buildings and retrofits; and guidance for the installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance of building envelopes, ventilation systems and air-cleaning technologies to mitigate smoke infiltration and improve IAQ.

[1] Managing Air Quality During the Pandemic: How K-12 Schools Addressed Air Quality in the Second Year of COVID19, ASHRAE and USGBC Center for Green Schools, May 2022: https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid19/managing_air_quality_during_the_pandemic.pdf

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email GovAffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for the work you are doing to protect the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,



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