



Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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February 24, 2026

The Honorable Michael W. Halpin
Chair
Committee on Appropriations – Education
Illinois Senate
401 S. Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Senate Bill 3110, “School Ventilation”

Dear Chair Halpin, Vice Chair Guzman and Members of the Appropriations – Education Committee:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, to support the goal of Illinois Senate Bill 3110, titled “School Ventilation”, that is currently before the Committee for consideration. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 53,000 members, including over 1,500 in Illinois, that focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration, and sustainability. Through our research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow’s global built environment today.

ASHRAE supports the goal of SB 3110 to enhance the indoor air quality (IAQ) in Illinois schools. ASHRAE’s position is that supporting the health and well-being of building occupants is the most important aspect of the indoor environment. We know from a wide body of scientific work that poor indoor air quality significantly and negatively affects student’s learning and health, and that good indoor air quality creates better educational and health outcomes. ASHRAE supports an educational document on IAQ to be created and supplied to school districts through this legislation, and offers some recommendations below regarding the content of that document.

ASHRAE has developed many technical resources to improve indoor environmental quality, including IAQ, and we recommend these standards be referenced in the documents provided to schools that would be authorized by this legislation:

- ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2022, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*, specifies 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. It is intended for use in new buildings, as well as additions or changes to existing buildings.

- ANSI/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.
- ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55-2023, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*, specifies the methods for determining acceptable thermal environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity. The most recent edition of this standard includes new addenda with a focus on the application of the standard in clear, enforceable language.
- ASHRAE Standard 241-2023, *Control of Infectious Aerosols*, is a standard for buildings focused on airborne infection risk mitigation. It establishes minimum requirements for building owners, operators and professionals to improve IAQ by reducing the risk of airborne disease transmission by infectious aerosols. Standard 241 is meant to be applied in periods of elevated risk, for example the risk of transmission of pathogens like the SARS-COV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. Under these conditions, buildings would operate in “Infection Risk Management Mode,” and building operators would have the flexibility to choose between different equivalent clean air options based on what they determine is appropriate for that type of space, along with their specific energy use goals or cost restrictions. This flexibility makes Standard 241 a powerful tool for mitigating transmission risk that can be adapted for use in different types of buildings, in combination with Standard 62.1.

In addition to indoor air quality, water quality is another essential component of the protection of human health in the built environment. ASHRAE also recommends the educational document reference the relevant standards for protecting water systems from health risks:

- ASHRAE Standard 188, *Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems*, and Standard 514, *Risk Management for Building Water Systems*, provide minimum requirements to reduce the risks to human health from physical, chemical, and microbial hazards in building water systems. These hazards can include disinfectants, disinfection byproducts, corrosion products, and chemicals that leach from pipes. These standards help reduce the incidence of illnesses such as Legionnaires’ Disease, which is a serious bacterial respiratory infection for which those with weakened immune systems or chronic respiratory conditions are at greater risk.

We appreciate your consideration of ASHRAE's comments regarding SB 3110. **ASHRAE supports the goal of this legislation to enhance health and safety in Illinois schools, which will reduce absenteeism and improve academic performance.** If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McQuade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "M".

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

cc: The Honorable Adriane Johnson