



# Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

M. Dennis Knight  
2024-2025 ASHRAE President

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April 9, 2025

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

Re: Senate Bill 2193, “School Ventilation”

Dear Chair Halpin and Members of the Senate Appropriations – Education Committee:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, to **support Illinois Senate Bill 2193**, titled “School Ventilation”, that is 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 2193 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. Monitoring and testing IAQ is a crucial first step toward ensuring adequate IAQ for students: we cannot fix an issue that we cannot identify, and we cannot fix what we cannot measure. **ASHRAE supports that, subject to appropriations, schools would be required to undergo a ventilation assessment, and that a technical document will be developed to help guide these assessments.**

ASHRAE has developed technical resources that can be used to support these ventilation assessments, and we recommend these be **referenced in the IAQ educational 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.
- 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.

We appreciate your consideration of ASHRAE’s comments regarding SB 2193. ASHRAE supports the goals of this legislation, which will enhance health and safety in Illinois schools, reducing absenteeism and improving health 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](mailto:GovAffairs@ashrae.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Dennis Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

M. Dennis Knight  
2024-2025 ASHRAE President