



Shaping Tomorrow's Global  
Built Environment Today

1255 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 825 ▪ Tel 202.833.1830 ▪ [www.ashrae.org](http://www.ashrae.org)

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September 29, 2025

The Honorable Peter Schweyer  
Chair  
Education Committee  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Sent via email to: [RepSchweyer@pahouse.net](mailto:RepSchweyer@pahouse.net)

Re: House Bill 1701, "Amendments to the Public School Code"

Dear Chair Schweyer and Education Committee Members:

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 53,000 members, including over 1,600 in Pennsylvania, 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.

We appreciate that this bill would require building condition assessments to ensure that school ventilation systems are operating in accordance with the "most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)." **We suggest further strengthening the bill by specifically referencing the relevant ASHRAE standards for indoor air quality, as well as the standard for acceptable temperature and humidity: ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*, and ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*.**

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<sup>1</sup>. Adhering to the appropriate standards and guidance is essential to managing indoor air quality. ASHRAE Standard 62.1, *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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid19/managing_air_quality_during_the_pandemic.pdf)



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and minimizes adverse health effects that are due to poor indoor air quality. It defines the requirements for ventilation and air-cleaning system design, installation, commissioning, and operations and maintenance. In addition, we also recommend the bill specifically reference the most recent (2022) edition of Standard 62.1.

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*, specifies the methods for determining acceptable thermal environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity. The most recent (2023) edition of this standard includes new addenda with a focus on the application of the standard in clear, enforceable language.

**In summary, we support HB 1701's goal of improving schools' ventilation systems and indoor air quality, and suggest that can be done most effectively by specifically referencing ASHRAE Standards 62.1 and 55 in the bill.**

Thank you for your consideration of ASHRAE's comments. We are delighted that Pennsylvania is moving forward to improve its school facilities for students, teachers, and staff. ASHRAE looks forward to being a technical resource as you consider this as well as other legislation concerning building systems and their impact on indoor air quality. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email [GovAffairs@ashrae.org](mailto:GovAffairs@ashrae.org).

Bill McQuade  
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

CC: The Honorable Representative Elizabeth Fiedler  
The Honorable Representative Lindsay Powell  
The Honorable Representative Tarik Khan  
The Honorable Representative Tarah Probst