



ALBERTA

Education
and Childcare

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary Bow*

AR 130970

July 24, 2025

Mr. Ken Glazebrook
President
Alberta School Councils' Association
207, 11010 142 Street
Edmonton AB T5N 2R1

Dear Mr. Glazebrook:

Thank you for your letter regarding air quality in Alberta schools. As Minister of Education and Childcare, and as a parent, I share your view that Alberta's students and teachers deserve well-maintained schools that are conducive to learning.

Alberta's government is committed to ensuring all students and staff have access to safe and healthy learning environments. As you are aware, each year, capital maintenance and renewal funding is allocated to school boards. This funding can be used to replace components or systems in schools, including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, to extend a system's useful life and enhance its usability, capacity, and efficiency.

In 2024/25, school boards received \$127 million in capital maintenance and renewal funding. Budget 2025 commits \$389 million over three years for this funding to support Alberta school boards.

New schools in Alberta are designed to include high-performance building envelope insulation and energy-efficient windows to keep heat out during the warmer seasons and in during the rest of the school year. The ventilation system is designed so that, if required, school maintenance staff can exchange indoor air with cooler outside air overnight. These energy-efficient innovations are designed to keep areas within the schools at a maximum of 25 degrees Celsius.

School boards can also upgrade their HVAC systems as part of a major modernization project. In most instances, the government does not directly fund the installation of air conditioning in schools; however, student comfort is always carefully considered.

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In 2025, more than 98 per cent of Education's operating budget is directed to school boards, which are responsible for delivering education services to students. While Alberta Education and Childcare is responsible for legislation, funding, and ensuring accountability within the education system, school boards are responsible for decisions about the operations and maintenance of their schools. This includes decisions about ventilation and air filtration management programs and upgrades to these systems.

Alberta Education and Childcare respects the autonomy of school boards to manage their resources while making the best use of public funds to meet the needs of students, as they are in the best position to evaluate and respond to the unique circumstances and priorities of the communities they serve.

Mr. Glazebrook, your commitment to ensuring students are provided with quality learning environments and spaces is appreciated. I hope you find this information helpful.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Demetrios" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nicolaides".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education and Childcare