



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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Charles E. Gulledge III, P.E., FASHRAE, HBDP, LEED AP
2020-2021 ASHRAE President

Environmental Air Systems, LLC
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January 28, 2021

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona
Commissioner of Education
State of Connecticut
450 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, CT 06103

Letter Sent Via Email to: Miguel.Cardona@ct.gov

Dear Commissioner Cardona:

On behalf of ASHRAE, I would like to extend our congratulations to you as President Biden's nominee for the U.S. Secretary of Education. For your reference, I am attaching a copy of a letter recently sent to the Acting Secretary of Education regarding the use of ASHRAE guidance in distribution of federal funds to make schools safer.

As you prepare to work with states and local educational agencies to help safely reopen schools across the country, please know that ASHRAE stands ready to help you by offering its technical expertise in building systems, from a health, safety and sustainability perspective. Since 1894, ASHRAE has been the leading source of scientific and engineering information related to heating, ventilation, air conditioning and other building systems, and we want to deploy this knowledge to help keep students and teachers safe. As a technical society of over 55,000 professionals, we also want to share technical information on how buildings can be made safer while sustaining energy conservation and other environmental goals.

In July 2020, during your tenure as Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut, you corresponded with ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force members and staff regarding Connecticut's guidance document, *Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. We were delighted that you had responded, saying that you would share ASHRAE's guidance with the Connecticut school districts. We hope that in your new national role, you will likewise share ASHRAE's technical guidance, including our [guidance for school buildings](#) and [guidance on reopening schools and universities](#), with schools throughout the country.

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona
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We look forward to hearing from you and hope to be of service. If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact ASHRAE's government affairs office at GovAffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for your attention to the health and safety of the public, and for referencing ASHRAE's guidance in your work as Connecticut Education Commissioner. We wish you all the best through the confirmation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E., FASHRAE, HBDP, LEED AP
2020-2021 ASHRAE President

Enclosure



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January 28, 2021

Mr. Phil Rosenfelt
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Acting Secretary Rosenfelt:

Thank you for the work you are doing to protect students, teachers, and other workers in America's educational facilities during the coronavirus pandemic. As you distribute funding from the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, I hope you will also share technical information from ASHRAE that can guide these investments and optimize outcomes.

ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. In March 2020, ASHRAE established an Epidemic Task Force to help deploy technical resources to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and possible future epidemics as it relates to the effects of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems on disease transmission. Guidance has been developed for several building types and operational conditions, including for school buildings and facilities. This includes [guidance for school buildings](#) and [guidance on reopening schools and universities](#).

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020 provides an additional \$82 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Within that allocation, and per Section 313, the Secretary is to allocate 67% of these funds to elementary and secondary schools through State educational agencies. The funds can be used for a variety of purposes including "School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs," and for "Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement."

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To help guide these investments so that they maximize health and educational outcomes, we respectfully request that the Department of Education share with states and local educational agencies ASHRAE's [guidance for school buildings](#) and [guidance on reopening schools and universities](#) that has been developed by ASHRAE's Epidemic Task Force. Summaries of this guidance are included as an attachment to this letter.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to be of service. If you have any questions, or would like to schedule a briefing, please contact me or have your staff contact ASHRAE's government affairs office at GovAffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for your attention to the health and safety of the public, which can advance educational outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "G".

Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E., FASHRAE, HBDP, LEED AP
2020-21 ASHRAE President

Enclosures