

1                   \* \* \* School Indoor Air Quality Grant Program \* \* \*

2           Sec. X. SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM;

3                   GRANTS FOR RENEWABLE AND EFFICIENT HEATING

4                   SYSTEMS IN SCHOOLS; APPROPRIATION

5           (a) Appropriation. In fiscal year 2022, \$6,000,000.00 is appropriated from  
6 the amount provided to the State by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in  
7 the State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund to expand the School  
8 Indoor Air Quality Grant Program established in 2020 Acts and Resolves No.  
9 120, Sec. A.51 to award grants for renewable and efficient heating systems in  
10 schools. Renewable and efficient heating systems grants shall be used to make  
11 necessary improvements to address building systems in covered schools to  
12 improve health, safety, and efficiency in response to the COVID-19  
13 emergency.

14           (b) Definition. As used in this section, “covered school” means public  
15 schools and approved independent schools as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 11.

16           (c) Grant awards established. There is created within the School Indoor  
17 Air Quality Grant Program, established in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120,  
18 Sec. A.51, the Renewable and Efficiency Heating Systems Grant Program (the  
19 Program) to make necessary improvements to address thermal enclosure and  
20 building systems in covered schools.

1           (d) Administration; implementation.

2           (1) Efficiency Vermont shall administer the Program and is authorized  
3 to use the amount appropriated in subsection (a) of this section for the  
4 following:

5           (A) provide consulting services to covered schools;

6           (B) award grant funds to covered schools of not more than 50 percent  
7 of the total cost for the improvement or repair of existing heating systems, with  
8 a focus on energy efficiency and providing appropriate space conditioning; and

9           (C) award grant funds to covered schools for the installation of  
10 renewable or efficiency electric space heating and conditioning systems.

11           (2) Grant program design. Efficiency Vermont, in consultation with the  
12 Agency of Education, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and experts in  
13 the field of thermal enclosure, energy efficiency, and renewable building space  
14 systems, shall design the Program. The Program design shall establish:

15           (A) an outreach and education plan, including specific tactics to  
16 reach and support all covered schools;

17           (B) an equitable system for distributing grants statewide based on  
18 geographic location, school size, grant dollar amount, and assessed need, with  
19 an emphasis on schools that may not have administrative support to apply for  
20 grants; and

1            (C) guidelines for thermal enclosure and renewable and energy  
2 efficiency buildings systems resilience, durability, health, and efficiency  
3 measures and costs that will be eligible for grant funding.

4            (e) Costs and fees.

5            (1) Efficiency Vermont is authorized to use up to \$150,000.00 of the  
6 amount appropriated in subsection (a) of this section for direct labor costs.

7            (2) As the entity appointed to serve as Efficiency Vermont, the Vermont  
8 Energy Investment Corp. (VEIC) is also authorized to collect their federal  
9 approved indirect rate of 9.3 percent on the funds expended in this section.

10           (3) Nothing shall prohibit Efficiency Vermont from supplementing total  
11 project costs completed under this section with a portion of its Public Utility  
12 Commission-approved budget for the purpose of achieving higher levels of  
13 efficiency and claiming efficiency savings toward completing of performance  
14 targets pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209(d).

15           (f) Coordination. Efficiency Vermont shall coordinate with the Agency of  
16 Education and any other State entities and agencies working with covered  
17 schools to provide grants for the Program.

18           (g) Reporting. On or before January 15, 2022, the Agency of Education  
19 shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the  
20 specific uses of the funds appropriated in subsection (a) of this section, the  
21 costs of any projects funded through the Program, and a description of the  
22 projects.

1        (h) Disclosures. Efficiency Vermont shall require that any school that  
2        receives a grant through the Program shall authorize Efficiency Vermont to  
3        release the school name and grant amount in any report requested by the  
4        General Assembly.

5        (i) Use of funds. The amount appropriated in this section shall only be  
6        used for the Program and shall not be used to carry out the duties of the School  
7        Indoor Air Quality Grant Program as described in 2020 Acts and Resolves No.  
8        120, Sec. A.51 and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. [X], Sec. 15.

9                                    \* \* \* School Facilities Conditions Assessment \* \* \*

10        Sec. 3. SCHOOL FACILITIES CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT; AGENCY  
11                                    OF EDUCATION; DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND  
12                                    GENERAL SERVICES

13        (a) On or before September 1, 2021, the Secretary of Education, in  
14        coordination with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall  
15        issue a request for proposal for a school facilities conditions assessment to  
16        inform the Agency of Education of the statewide school facilities needs and  
17        costs. The assessment shall include:

18                                    (1) A planning phase that utilizes the expertise of the consultant and  
19        other stakeholders to finalize the evaluation criteria and methodology for  
20        collection of data.

1           (2) A review of school facility conditions, space utilization, and  
2           suitability of the facility and its spaces to deliver educational and support  
3           services.

4           (3) Sufficient information to assist the General Assembly to establish a  
5           ranking system based on categories to prioritize schools with the highest needs  
6           for future school construction funding. The categories shall include:

7                   (A) capacity and utilization;

8                   (B) safety and security infrastructure;

9                   (C) accessibility;

10                  (D) technology infrastructure;

11                  (E) capacity to deliver STEAM (science, technology, engineering,  
12                  arts, and math) programming; and

13                  (F) building systems' condition and performance to address health  
14                  and safety of students and employees, including energy efficiency  
15                  improvements and indoor air quality.

16           (b) The Secretary of Education shall contract with an independent third  
17           party to conduct the assessment described in subsection (a) of this section. The  
18           assessment shall be completed on or before October 1, 2022.

19           (c) The Agency of Education shall create a database to enter the  
20           information from the assessment described in subsection (a) of this section.  
21           This information shall include a school's physical address and GIS  
22           coordinates.

Proposed Language for H. 426  
School Indoor Air Quality Grant Program  
April 15, 2021

1        (d) The total cost for the assessment described in this section shall not  
2        exceed \$2,500,000.00, of which the Secretary is authorized to expend as  
3        follows:

4            (1) Of the initial expenditures, not more than the \$627,500.00 shall be  
5        used from the amount allocated to the Agency of Education from the  
6        Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act pursuant to Section  
7        18003(e), 2020, Pub. L. No. 116–136.

8            (2) Of the remaining expenditures, not more than \$1,872,500.00 shall be  
9        used from the amount allocated to the Agency of Education Elementary and  
10       Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund pursuant to Section 313(e) of the  
11       Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116–260.

12        (e) On or before January 15, 2022, the Secretary of Education shall submit  
13       a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with an update on  
14       the status of the request for proposal described in subsection (a) of this section.

15        (f) As used in this section, “school” means a public school as defined in  
16       16 V.S.A. § 11.