



# Schools Indoor Air Project (ScIP): What to Expect



The mission of the Schools Indoor Air Project (ScIP) is to partner with schools and child-serving facilities to make them healthier by improving indoor air quality. Indoor air pollution is a big problem that can make people sick and is especially bad for kids.

ScIP will put special filters in schools to make the air cleaner. We will document improvements in air quality with the filters in place. Participating schools will help ScIP plan future efforts to improve air quality and health in places where kids go, like schools and child-care centers. The facilities get to keep the special filters after the project is over.

## What do we expect from the ScIP team?

The ScIP team will check buildings' **heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC)** systems and look for factors that may impact indoor air quality. We will also measure how much pollution is in the air and how well the air is flowing throughout the building.

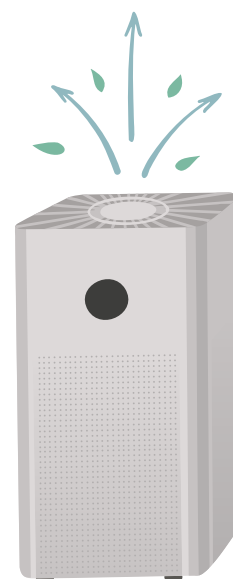
### Building inspection

Before putting in the special air filters, we will look at the whole building to ensure it's okay. This means we'll need to go into the mechanical room, up on the roof, and around the school. It will take a few hours to look at everything, but we won't disturb anyone during regular school time.

### Free air filters

In newer or renovated buildings with HVAC systems, we will replace existing or missing filters with new high-performance filters. In buildings with radiators, we will put in stand-alone air filters. We will also see if there are other ways we can make the HVAC systems work better to improve the air quality inside.

Once we put in filters and air quality monitors, we'll return a few times to check how they're working and get information. Again, we'll do this when the school is closed so that we won't disturb anyone.



## How can we contribute to SciP?

We will ask teachers to complete two short surveys during the school year. The surveys will ask the teachers how they feel about the school's indoor air quality and how they feel when they are at school. The surveys are optional and private, so nobody will know who answered what. We will give the school a report of all the answers, but we won't identify what teachers said what when we share the information with other people.

## Benefits

The success of this project depends on partnerships and ongoing collaboration between our team and participating districts and schools. We will work to ensure that this study produces value and direct benefits to participating schools' students and staff. We will also work to minimize demands on school time and resources. We hope you will lend us your support and participation in this important study.

## What are the benefits for students?

Poor indoor air quality can increase long and short-term health problems for students and worsen asthma and other respiratory (breathing-related) illnesses. Promoting good indoor air quality provides students with a healthy environment needed to learn and grow. In addition, a healthy school environment can improve academic performance and reduce absences.

## What are the Benefits for Teachers/Staff?

Good indoor air quality is also important for creating a safe and welcoming workplace for teachers and staff. Healthier school environments allow teachers to reduce barriers to indoor air quality, like health and comfort, and maximize classroom learning. Good indoor air quality can also help improve teacher and staff retention rates.

## Participation & Data

School participation in SciP and teacher participation in the teacher survey is voluntary. Schools or teachers may withdraw from SciP at any time for any reason without needing to state why. At the beginning of each teacher survey, we will ask participants to complete a written informed consent document. The purpose of this form is to explain the study and help you decide if you would like to participate. It includes contact information for people you may contact to discuss any questions or concerns about SciP.

## Data Management

All information from schools and classrooms will be kept secure and confidential. The identities and characteristics of participating districts, schools, and teachers will be protected. Individual participants and schools will never be publicly identified or associated with specific findings. Data collected at each school will be compared with other schools in the study. Information that identifies individual participants and schools will be removed before public discussion of findings and conclusions.

## Questions?

Thank you again for your interest in this study. If you have any questions or concerns about participating in this study, please contact CAPHE project manager, Alison Walding, at [walison@umich.edu](mailto:walison@umich.edu).

## **What is Community Action to Promote Healthy Environments (CAPHE)?**

Our goal is to use scientifically-based and community-led actions to reduce air pollution and harmful health effects from air pollution in Detroit and surrounding communities.

CAPHE's partnerships include community-based organizations, residents, health providers and public health researchers.

### **CAPHE Partners:**

- 48217 - Theresa Landrum
- Community Action Against Asthma
- Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center
- Detroit Health Department
- Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Eastside Community Network
- Ecology Center
- Great Lakes Environmental Law Center
- Green Door Initiative
- Healthy Environments Partnership
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
- Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition
- Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
- University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
- University of Michigan School of Public Health
- University of Michigan- Dearborn