



## Fast Facts

House Democrats deliver \$175 million for environmental repairs and upgrades to Pennsylvania school buildings.

- On July 30, 2023, educators, advocates, labor leaders and concerned parents joined dozens of House and Senate democrats, school district officials, unions, teachers, and staff at South Philadelphia High School and vowed to invest in deteriorating public school buildings across Pennsylvania. On December 13, 2023, the House Democrats took the lead in the first step toward addressing this problem.
- Last week, the legislature passed and the Governor signed into law the School Code (Act No. 33) and the Fiscal Code (Act No. 34). These two pieces of legislation create two new programs to upgrade school facilities in Pennsylvania. The law allocates \$75 million to the School Environmental Repairs Program. This program will be administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The law allocates \$100 million to the Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program which will be administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.
- In total this \$175 million represents a first-of-its-kind investment in projects like roof repairs or boiler replacement – major repairs that often get deferred. This funding for environmental repairs and improvement projects, coupled with a record investment in basic education, is a significant first step toward adequately and equitably funding our public schools.

<b>Summary of New Funding for School Facilities in 23/24 Budget</b>	<b>Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program</b>	<b>School Environmental Repairs Program</b>
<b>2023/24 Funding</b>	\$100 million (from funds originally appropriated for 23/24 Level Up)	\$75 million (transfer of a surplus in prior years' general government operations funds)
<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	School districts and area career and technical schools	School districts, area career and technical schools, and charter schools
<b>Eligible Uses of Funds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- roof repairs and roof replacement</li> <li>- HVAC equipment</li> <li>- boilers and controls</li> <li>- plumbing systems</li> <li>- energy savings projects</li> <li>- health and safety upgrades (including environmental hazards and AEDs)</li> <li>- emergencies (deficiencies that prevent a building from being open) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accessibility projects</li> <li>- internet connectivity</li> <li>- demolition</li> </ul> </li> <li>- window repair and window replacement</li> <li>- other approved projects</li> </ul>	Projects that abate or remediate environmental hazards, including lead, asbestos, and mold
<b>Grant Framework</b>	Application based; the scoring rubric includes school entity wealth, building conditions, emergencies, and health/security/safety considerations	Application based; priority given to projects that abate or remediate environmental hazards that present the greatest risk of exposure
<b>Maximum Grant Award</b>	\$5 million per application (can submit multiple)	\$10 million per project
<b>Local Match Required</b>	25% (may be waived for school districts in financial watch or recovery)	50%
<b>Limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- no school entity may receive more than 20% of the funds</li> <li>- area career and technical schools may not receive more than 20% of the funds</li> </ul>	n/a
<b>Administering Agency</b>	Commonwealth Financing Authority	Department of Education
<b>Transparency</b>	Report to Appropriations Chairs	Grant awards published on website
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Section 1753.2-E of the Fiscal Code (HB1300 - enacted 12/13/2023)	Article XXVI-L of the Public School Code (HB301 - enacted 12/13/2023)

