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1791 Tullie Circle NE • Atlanta, GA 30329-2305 • Tel: 404.636.8400 • Fax: 404.321.5478 • www.ashrae.org

Charles E. Gulledge III, P.E., HBDP, LEED AP
2020-21 President

Environmental Air Systems, LLC
3334 Cardinal Ridge Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27410-8251
Cell: 336.790-3907
GulledgeChuck@gmail.com

July 21, 2020

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I am writing to follow-up concerning information sent via email on May 8 with technical resources from ASHRAE's Epidemic Taskforce for school facilities during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, is a global professional society of over 55,000 members committed to serve humanity by advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration and their allied fields. 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 facilities.

As you work to re-open schools, we wanted you to be aware that ASHRAE has **updated its guidance for schools** which can be found at www.ashrae.org/covid19, along with other resources. A PDF of the guidance can be found here: <https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/reopening-schools-and-universities-c19-guidance.pdf>. The guidance includes:

- *A Summer Checklist for Fall Classes*
- *A Start Up Checklist Prior to Occupancy*
- *A list of Equipment & Systems Checks & Verifications During Academic Year*
- *Information on Controlling Infection Outbreaks in School Facilities*

We recognize that the CDC has also issued guidance for schools, but we wanted you to be aware that ASHRAE has more specific guidance relating to school buildings and their HVAC systems, including recommendations on filtration upgrades, HVAC system checks, design for nurses offices, and air cleaning.

We would be happy to provide a briefing to you and your staff on ASHRAE's technical resources and answer any questions you might have. Additionally, as school districts begin to consider if it is safe to resume classes, we encourage them to work with ASHRAE, including through its local ASHRAE chapters, to incorporate these recommended best practices. **We would appreciate your department sharing these resources with the state and local school authorities.** To schedule a briefing or if you have additional technical questions, please contact COVID-19@ashrae.org. If you have policy questions or want to be connected to ASHRAE's local chapters, please contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Gulledge III, PE". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

cc: The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
The U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor