



Legal Update:

Oregon's new school indoor air quality law (HB 3031) starts January 1, and grant opportunities are still available!

What is required under the new law?

- Under the new law, school districts must ensure that certain minimum requirements regarding indoor air quality are met when state and federal funds are spent on indoor HVAC infrastructure improvements. School districts are required to ensure that contractors carrying out work on these projects comply with labor standards, including providing prevailing wage and employer-paid full family health insurance and retirement to all employees on the job.

What grant opportunities are available to help school districts continue improving school and facility infrastructure?

- Multiple federal grant programs, providing hundreds of millions of dollars, are available, including the Renew America's Schools grants, which will be accepted starting February of 2024.

Are there other paths to compliance with the labor standards?

- Yes! To help ensure and streamline compliance with the labor standards, districts can utilize a community benefits agreement, or "CBA," which will also greatly increase the competitiveness of a school district's grant application.

Will school districts have help in applying for the available grants?

- Yes! The SMART (the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers) Grant Subsidy program provides free grant writing and application services to select districts across Oregon and Washington. ODE is partnering with SMART to attempt to bring hundreds of millions of dollars for school retrofits in the next round of federal infrastructure grant funding.

For more information, including how to connect with available grant writing services, please contact Mike Bahr, Community System Solutions at mike.bahr@cssgrants.org.