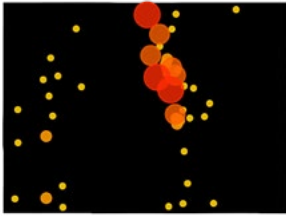


Colorado



As climate change produces more extremely hot days across the country, many schools are struggling to cope with overheated classrooms and inadequate cooling systems—if they have them at all. This ongoing increase in the number of hot days during the academic year is forcing schools to install air conditioning or upgrade their equipment to a higher cooling capacity.

Hotter Days, Higher Costs: The Cooling Crisis in America's Classrooms analyzed localized heat trends during the school year from 1970 to 2025 using a widely used and publicly available ensemble of climate models. Our analysis identified a threshold of 32 days above 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the school year as the point at which air conditioning is needed, based on engineering protocols, peer-reviewed studies examining the relationship between heat and learning, and actual practice in school systems across the country. For every school district, we used climate model output to tally the number of days above the 80°F threshold during the school year in 1970 and 2025.

The result: billions of dollars in school cooling costs that are directly attributable to climate change.

THE IMPACT ON COLORADO

Climate change is leading to more hot days during the school year. Using 1970 as a baseline, by 2025 this climate-driven warming will require 562 Colorado schools to install AC at a cost of \$1,198,234,000, impacting 302,010 students across 46 school districts in Colorado. By 2025, 40% of students in 37% of schools across Colorado will be impacted by these costs.

Once installed, schools will have to spend an additional \$25,957,000 every year to operate and maintain these systems, which will impact 648,610 students.

THE IMPACT ON THE U.S.

Numerous studies have found that hot temperatures reduce a student's ability to learn.

Nationally, the bill totals over \$40 billion to install or upgrade air conditioning in schools that serve a third of the country's public school students. That's equivalent to the amount that public schools spend each year on all capital improvements, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Who's going to pay for this? As it stands, taxpayers have been on the hook. The total bill is enormous, particularly for schools feeling the pinch from increased spending on security and health-safety measures, and burgeoning technology demands. Taxpayers, teachers, and students aren't to blame for rising temperatures. Oil and gas executives have known nearly half a century that their products were causing climate change, and intentionally misled the public about the dangers.

Schoolchildren understand that when you make a mess, it's your responsibility to clean it up. It's time to hold oil and gas executives accountable for the damage they've caused.



5614 Connecticut Ave. NW, #314
 Washington, DC 20015
 919 307 6637
 info@climateintegrity.org

See our full report for more data at coolingcrisis.org

The Cost of Cooling Colorado's Schools

TOP 10 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, RANKED BY EQUIPMENT COST

RANK	SCHOOL DISTRICT	TOTAL EQUIPMENT	ANNUAL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	# OF STUDENTS IMPACTED	INCREASE IN HEAT DAYS (TOTAL HEAT DAYS)
1	Jefferson County School District R-1	\$268,330,080	\$4,808,279	68,021	⬆️ 17 /43
2	Douglas County School District RE-1	\$182,024,628	\$2,932,767	50,467	⬆️ 16 /44
3	Poudre School District R-1	\$108,863,874	\$1,821,515	27,619	⬆️ 17 /42
4	Cherry Creek School District 5	\$82,765,058	\$2,021,031	54,033	⬆️ 16 /48
5	Denver County School District 1	\$80,088,763	\$1,997,518	68,504	⬆️ 17 /50
6	Boulder Valley School District RE-2	\$65,155,964	\$1,494,875	28,022	⬆️ 18 /47
7	Thompson School District R-2J	\$59,244,523	\$1,065,808	14,681	⬆️ 17 /47
8	Colorado Springs School District 11	\$54,393,444	\$840,343	13,668	⬆️ 16 /34
9	Harrison School District 2	\$37,760,941	\$622,301	9,679	⬆️ 17 /40
10	Widefield School District 3	\$37,367,407	\$674,224	9,384	⬆️ 17 /45

TOP 10 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, RANKED BY OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE COST

RANK	SCHOOL DISTRICT	TOTAL EQUIPMENT	ANNUAL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	# OF STUDENTS IMPACTED	INCREASE IN HEAT DAYS (TOTAL HEAT DAYS)
1	Jefferson County School District R-1	\$268,330,080	\$4,808,279	68,021	⬆️ 17 /43
2	Douglas County School District RE-1	\$182,024,628	\$2,932,767	50,467	⬆️ 16 /44
3	Cherry Creek School District 5	\$82,765,058	\$2,021,031	54,033	⬆️ 16 /48
4	Denver County School District 1	\$80,088,763	\$1,997,518	68,504	⬆️ 17 /50
5	Poudre School District R-1	\$108,863,874	\$1,821,515	27,619	⬆️ 17 /42
6	Boulder Valley School District RE-2	\$65,155,964	\$1,494,875	28,022	⬆️ 18 /47
7	Thompson School District R-2J	\$59,244,523	\$1,065,808	14,681	⬆️ 17 /47
8	Colorado Springs School District 11	\$54,393,444	\$840,343	13,668	⬆️ 16 /34
9	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	\$18,048,448	\$763,217	35,422	⬆️ 19 /52
10	Westminster Public School District	\$35,470,450	\$696,746	8,905	⬆️ 19 /49

Total equipment is the combined estimated HVAC installation and upgrade costs from 1970–2025. Annual Operation & Maintenance is the estimated costs of operating and maintaining the HVAC systems. Heat days are the number of days 80° or warmer between September 1 and June 15. The increase in heat days was estimated between 1970–2025.

See our full report for more data at coolingcrisis.org



5614 Connecticut Ave. NW, #314
 Washington, DC 20015
 919 307 6637
info@climateintegrity.org