Louisiana

Total Equipment Cost
$12.2M

Total Operating Cost
$10.2M

Students Affected
628,020

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 LOUISIANA

For some schools in Louisiana that required cooling systems before 1970, the increasing number of extremely hot days has already and will continue to overwhelm the cooling capacity of these systems. To upgrade these systems, Louisiana will need to spend $12,184,000 in 832 schools by 2025, impacting 452,680 students across 75 school districts in Louisiana. By 2025, 72% of students in 68% of schools across Louisiana will be impacted by these costs.

This increase in hot days will mean schools have to spend an additional $10,167,000 every year to operate these systems, which will impact 628,020 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.

CENTER FOR CLIMATE INTEGRITY
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 Louisiana'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 Parish School District	$1,980,183	$776,972	44,891	24/135
2	East Baton Rouge Parish School District	$1,406,646	$550,722	36,845	21/133
3	Caddo Parish School District	$818,084	$653,700	36,694	23/121
4	Rapides Parish School District	$783,282	$428,501	23,139	23/129
5	Calcasieu Parish School District	$632,572	$501,087	32,819	21/127
6	St. Landry Parish School District	$496,479	$237,205	13,358	24/135
7	Bossier Parish School District	$430,561	$361,581	23,299	23/119
8	Ouachita Parish School District	$408,528	$312,702	19,360	23/120
9	St. Charles Parish School District	$386,634	$148,764	9,328	22/133
10	St. Bernard Parish School District	$354,883	$114,666	7,752	22/135

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 Parish School District	$1,980,183	$776,972	44,891	24/135
2	Caddo Parish School District	$818,084	$653,700	36,694	23/121
3	St. Tammany Parish School District	$118,840	$598,124	38,685	20/131
4	East Baton Rouge Parish School District	$1,406,646	$550,722	36,845	21/133
5	Calcasieu Parish School District	$632,572	$501,087	32,819	21/127
6	Lafayette Parish School District	$298,663	$446,620	29,646	20/130
7	Rapides Parish School District	$783,282	$428,501	23,139	23/129
8	Livingston Parish School District	$343,823	$398,724	25,520	21/134
9	Bossier Parish School District	$430,561	$361,581	23,299	23/119
10	Tangipahoa Parish School District	$106,604	$344,278	19,249	19/136

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

CENTER FOR CLIMATE INTEGRITY

5614 Connecticut Ave. NW, #314
Washington, DC 20015

919 307 6637

info@climateintegrity.org