

Oklahoma



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 OKLAHOMA

For some schools in Oklahoma 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, Oklahoma will need to spend \$22,000 in 19 schools by 2025, impacting 2,800 students across 11 school districts in Oklahoma.

This increase in hot days will mean schools have to spend an additional \$9,305,000 every year to operate these systems, which will impact 665,230 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.



The Cost of Cooling Oklahoma's Schools

TOP SCHOOL 10 DISTRICTS, RANKED BY EQUIPMENT COST

RANK	SCHOOL DISTRICT	TOTAL EQUIPMENT	ANNUAL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	# OF STUDENTS IMPACTED	INCREASE IN HEAT DAYS (TOTAL HEAT DAYS)
1	Pocola Public Schools	\$3,238	\$12,778	801	⬆️ 24 _{/104}
2	Okemah Public Schools	\$3,155	\$12,385	795	⬆️ 20 _{/96}
3	Soper Public Schools	\$2,760	\$8,446	347	⬆️ 23 _{/108}
4	Moffett Public School	\$2,643	\$8,630	346	⬆️ 28 _{/109}
5	Lane Public School	\$2,102	\$6,673	269	⬆️ 30 _{/111}
6	Ryan Public Schools	\$2,039	\$5,832	244	⬆️ 20 _{/121}
7	Waurika Public Schools	\$1,733	\$6,314	446	⬆️ 23 _{/122}
8	McCurtain Public Schools	\$1,703	\$5,310	215	⬆️ 22 _{/106}
9	Arkoma Public Schools	\$1,316	\$5,769	406	⬆️ 25 _{/102}
10	Boswell Public Schools	\$1,074	\$4,488	339	⬆️ 25 _{/104}

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	Oklahoma City Public Schools	\$0	\$423,090	37,530	⬆️ 19 _{/91}
2	Tulsa Public Schools	\$0	\$416,219	36,971	⬆️ 17 _{/88}
3	Edmond Public Schools	\$0	\$332,369	25,281	⬆️ 19 _{/94}
4	Moore Public Schools	\$0	\$313,827	24,638	⬆️ 19 _{/90}
5	Putnam City Public Schools	\$0	\$265,393	19,419	⬆️ 20 _{/88}
6	Broken Arrow Public Schools	\$0	\$257,472	19,070	⬆️ 18 _{/89}
7	Union Public Schools	\$0	\$209,016	15,773	⬆️ 18 _{/89}
8	Norman Public Schools	\$0	\$207,672	16,085	⬆️ 16 _{/96}
9	Mustang Public Schools	\$0	\$187,700	11,902	⬆️ 20 _{/86}
10	Lawton Public Schools	\$0	\$182,673	13,799	⬆️ 16 _{/105}

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