Greater Essex County District School Board

Title: Air Conditioning

Category: Policy

Responsibility: Superintendent of Business, Treasurer and Facility Services

Effective Date: February 6, 2001

Review Date: February 20, 2024

Next Review Year: 2029

The Greater Essex County District School Board believes the working, teaching and learning environment may require conditioned spaces to support well-being and achievement. The Board also recognizes the need to be environmentally and fiscally responsible. Consideration shall be given to alternatives before air conditioning is requested. All new school construction will incorporate air conditioning and consideration will be given to providing air conditioning to new school additions in existing facilities. For major mechanical ventilation equipment replacement, consideration will be given to providing conditioned air.

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The Board supports air conditioning in school areas based on the following principles:

1. Libraries, staff rooms and main school offices will be considered for air conditioning in order to provide cooling locations for staff and students during extreme heat events. Portables and port-a-packs will also be given due consideration for air conditioning due to their unique construction, along with computer rooms because of the heat generated by the equipment. Consideration will be given, on an individual basis, to special education areas as determined by Facilities Services and the Special Education Department.

2. Facility Services will modify the operational schedule of air conditioning equipment and air-conditioned buildings during July and August. The schedule will be modified with due consideration given to energy savings, building occupancy, humidity, and temperature.

3. The change of use of a room will be cause for an assessment of the need of air conditioning and may be cause for additional or the removal of existing equipment. Administrative Procedure AP-PL-01 – Alterations to School Building Grounds and/or Change of Use of Space is to be followed for approval prior to any change of use of a room.

4. Facility Services will encourage and consider, where appropriate, alternatives toair conditioning including:

    - Water bottle filling stations
    - Portable fans
    - Possible mechanical upgrades to conditioned air if a system priority.
    - Mechanical systems that provide conditioned air work to remove humidity and lower room temperature to a more comfortable level without causing damage to existing building materials. This is an alternative to full air conditioning, which has the potential to cause condensation on poorly insulated building envelopes or windows.
    - Window treatments
    - Alternative solutions to create more air movement and/or relieve solar gain

Communication of Administrative Procedure AP-AD- 27 – Extreme Weather, shall be summarized and posted for reference under “Parents” on the Board’s website.