



April 13, 2021

Joe Crelier, Director–Risk Management
Portland Public Schools
501 N Dixon Street
Portland, Oregon

Via email: jcrelier@pps.net

Regarding: COVID Response Indoor Air Quality Testing Report
Rigler Elementary School
5401 NE Prescott Street
Portland, Oregon
PBS Project 25000.138

Dear Mr. Crelier:

On April 8, 2021, PBS Engineering and Environmental Inc. (PBS) performed indoor air quality testing in Rigler Elementary School located at the address above. These services were provided to Portland Public Schools (District) to measure air quality parameters before schools and district-owned buildings are opened again for reoccupancy.

As part of these indoor air quality testing services, PBS measured carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), temperature in degrees Fahrenheit (°F), relative humidity (%RH), and airborne particulate (PM2.5 and PM10). Additionally, PBS reviewed and inventoried accessible components of the test rooms' heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Based on PBS' findings, two rooms tested below the recommended range for indoor temperatures. The four portable buildings also tested below the recommended range for indoor temperatures. At the time of the investigation, school was not in session and the portable buildings were not occupied and it is believed that the HVAC systems were not in operation. PBS also observed rooms with open windows throughout the school, which likely led to the decreased temperature readings. Additionally, seven rooms in the investigation tested above the recommended ambient airborne particulate concentrations; however, when compared to the ambient outdoor concentrations these results do not present an actionable condition. The results of the testing and assessment indicates that indoor air quality in the building is good and that the building is acceptable for occupancy.

While PBS observed no measurable indoor air quality concerns in any of the rooms that were tested, PBS did not test every occupiable room in each building. This investigation has been performed in concert with a concerted effort on the part of the District to perform regular inspections and repair of all HVAC mechanical systems throughout the District. Additionally, it is the District's policy that rooms without adequate ventilation will not be utilized moving forward.

VENTILATION PARAMETERS AND AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MONITORING

PBS took spot measurements of ventilation parameters in approximately 20% of the classrooms, offices, and common areas in the building (or each building). The readings were compared to recommendations in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 62.1-2016, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality.

PBS used a TSI VelociCalc 9565 ventilation meter to measure temperature, %RH, CO, and CO₂. A TSI Aerotrak 9306-V2 optical particle counter was used to measure airborne particulate. The table below summarizes the results of the testing. Readings above or below the ASHRAE recommendations are shown in bold.

IAQ Testing Results

Room	CO	CO ₂	Temp. (°F)	%RH	PM2.5	PM10	HVAC
Outdoor Air (Pre)	0.0	477	65.7	27.2	0.030	0.006	N/A
Classroom 18A	0.0	542	65.6	36.4	0.011	0.002	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows, Air Purifier
Cafeteria	0.0	494	69.9	29.7	0.031	0.011	Operable Windows, Ceiling HVAC Unit
Classroom 14A	0.0	514	73.7	31.5	0.005	0.002	Operable Windows, Air Purifier, Unit Ventilator
Auditorium	0.0	487	70.9	26.0	0.016	0.004	Operable Windows, Exterior Doors, Radiant Heat
Library	0.0	547	71.1	35.1	0.023	0.016	Operable Windows, Air Purifier, Unit Ventilator
Office 23C	0.0	515	71.8	26.8	0.048	0.011	Passive Vent to Hall, Operable Windows, Air Purifier
Main Office 24	0.0	550	72.3	27.4	0.024	0.011	Passive Vent to Hall, Operable Windows, Air Purifier, Unit Ventilator
Classroom 27A – Art	0.0	559	71.6	29.1	0.019	0.008	Operable Windows, Air Purifier, Unit Ventilator
Gymnasium	0.0	491	70.7	27.7	0.002	0.000	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows
Room 38 Conference	0.0	518	71.6	29.5	0.028	0.010	Passive Vent to Hall, Operable Windows, Radiant Heat
Room 41A – Teacher Lounge	0.0	528	72.9	28.8	0.040	0.018	Return Air, Operable Windows, Radiant Heat
Classroom 33	0.0	528	73.6	28.1	0.087	0.031	Passive Vent to Hall, Operable Windows, Air Purifier, Unit Ventilator

Room	CO	CO ₂	Temp. (°F)	%RH	PM2.5	PM10	HVAC
Room 39	0.0	517	72.7	28.8	0.054	0.024	Operable Windows, Radiant Heat
Classroom 19	0.0	519	62.1	38.5	0.025	0.005	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows, Air Purifier
Outdoor Air (Intermediate)	2.5	481	56.0	34.1	0.020	0.004	N/A
Portable 4	0.0	484	60.9	41.5	0.061	0.031	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows, Exterior Door, Radiant Heat
Portable 3	0.0	482	61.5	42.6	0.032	0.017	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows, Exterior Door, Radiant Heat
Portable 2	0.0	476	62.4	43.6	0.076	0.032	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows, Exterior Door, Radiant Heat
Portable 1	0.0	482	60.5	38.1	0.043	0.017	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows, Exterior Door, Radiant Heat
Outdoor Air (Post)	0.0	467	56.1	31.7	0.030	0.010	N/A

CO and CO₂ are presented in parts per million (ppm)

°F: degrees Fahrenheit

%RH: relative humidity

PM: particulate matter

HVAC: visible heating, ventilation, and air conditioning components

CARBON MONOXIDE

CO is produced from the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels, including gasoline, heating oil, and natural gas. CO encountered in a classroom or office environment would likely be the result of proximity to motor vehicles or a malfunctioning heating system exhaust. While ASHRAE recommends that CO levels indoors should not exceed 9 parts per million (ppm), any sustained measurable amount of CO should be investigated.

CARBON DIOXIDE

CO₂ is a normal constituent of exhaled breath and indoor concentrations depend on the number of occupants, duration of occupancy, and air exchanges in a given space. ASHRAE recommends maintaining indoor CO₂ concentrations at less than approximately 1,200 ppm. Given that the building had only limited occupancy during the testing, the reported concentrations are not reflective of conditions during full occupancy.

TEMPERATURE

ASHRAE recommends maintaining indoor temperatures between 68 and 76°F.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

ASHRAE recommends maintaining relative humidity indoors below 60%. Relative humidity indoors is difficult to regulate and is largely reflective of outdoor conditions.

AIRBORNE PARTICULATE

PM2.5

Airborne particulate matter was measured to assess the effectiveness of the buildings ventilation filtration system. ASHRAE recommends that ambient airborne particulate matter concentrations, measured as PM2.5, should meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which for PM2.5 is 0.035 milligrams per cubic meter of air (mg/m^3), as measured and averaged over a period of 24 hours.

PM10

Airborne particulate matter was measured to assess the effectiveness of the buildings ventilation filtration system. ASHRAE recommends that airborne particulate matter concentrations, measured as PM10, should meet NAAQS, which for PM10 is 0.150 mg/m^3 , as measured and averaged over a period of 24 hours.

HVAC

Portables do not have functional fan units. Classrooms have univents on the first and second floors. The west side of the school has fan units in closets for classrooms. Lower-level classrooms are served by fan units. The cafeteria has a dedicated, local fan unit. The gym also has a dedicated fan unit housed on the top level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PBS did not observe any rooms that had neither operable windows nor an obvious mechanical or gravity ventilation system. PBS has no additional recommendations concerning ambient air quality at this time.

LIMITATIONS OF SCOPE

This study was limited to the tests and locations as indicated above. The site as a whole may have other environmental concerns that will not be characterized by this study. The findings and conclusions of this work are not scientific certainties but probabilities based on professional judgment concerning the significance of the data gathered during the course of this investigation. PBS is not able to represent conditions on the site or adjoining sites beyond those detected or observed by PBS.

PBS respectfully submits these results of our indoor air quality investigation. Please feel free to contact me at 503.417.7724 or marli.heininger@pbsusa.com with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

 Marli Heininger
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Marli Heininger
Industrial Hygienist

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