ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS GROUP

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AND MOLD CONSULTING SINCE 2002

November 4, 2026

Dr. Jeff James, Superintendent
Iredell-Statesville Schools

RE: Coddle Creek Elementary School | Independent Preliminary Review of Environmental Reports and District Response

Dear Dr. James:

Thank you for meeting with ESG on November 3 and for the additional discussions on November 4 concerning Coddle Creek Elementary School. Environmental Solutions Group (ESG) has reviewed the August, September and October environmental assessment reports, along with Reliant Environmental's October 28 HVAC inspection. This letter provides our preliminary independent perspective on the documented findings and the district's continuing response.

The original concerns required action

The August assessment documented elevated relative humidity, suspected microbial conditions at supply diffusers and return vents, and unusual Aspergillus/Penicillium-like airborne findings in several shared hallways and Classroom D122. These findings provided a reasonable basis for moisture-source evaluation, professional cleaning and HVAC investigation.

The district has demonstrated a sustained corrective response

Based on our discussions with district representatives, the school system engaged environmental consultants, mechanical contractors and cleaning professionals; conducted broad surface cleaning, air filtration and dehumidification; addressed energy-recovery ventilation (ERV) operation; and arranged repeat environmental sampling. The district has continued to adapt its response as new findings and professional recommendations became available. This reflects ongoing attention to the concerns and a practical commitment to corrective action.

Follow-up reports show progress and further action

The September and October investigations document encouraging improvements in previously affected Classrooms D122 and B129, including substantial reductions in sampled airborne Aspergillus/Penicillium-like spores. The October testing also identified selected remaining elevations, including findings in the gymnasium and other classrooms. The district has described continued air filtration, additional cleaning and further evaluation in response to these results.

Reliant's October 28 HVAC inspection described visible suspected microbial conditions on accessible components of several air-handling units and selected ERV components, together with dirty return ducts. Its recommendations support focused professional attention to affected mechanical equipment and associated air distribution components. The district has since coordinated additional HVAC cleaning work as part of its ongoing response.

Current status and recommended path

During the November 3 and 4 discussions, district representatives reported that ERV operation had been restored and more recent indoor humidity readings had improved. The next phase described by the district includes continued air filtration, professional air-handler and duct cleaning, filter replacement, additional contractor-directed classroom surface cleaning, and follow-up environmental sampling after the corrective work. This coordinated sequence responds to the conditions identified through successive inspections and testing.

The October measurements also provide a useful reminder to maintain ventilation and moisture controls. ESG supports reviewing the next testing results alongside the work performed, documenting the condition of cleaned HVAC components,

and continuing practical humidity trend monitoring. Performance during the next warm, humid season should be reassessed as part of a preventive maintenance approach designed to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

Our independent perspective

From the reports and discussions reviewed, ESG sees a consistent pattern of professional investigation, corrective action and follow-up rather than disregard of the reported concerns. The school system has engaged relevant specialists, expanded its evaluation, responded to newly identified mechanical conditions and continued planning additional cleaning and verification. These efforts, together with ongoing moisture monitoring and preventive maintenance, provide a constructive path for supporting healthy indoor conditions for students and staff.

ESG's perspective is based on the supplied reports and district discussions. We also welcome the district's interest in developing a more consistent moisture-inspection and environmental response process for future concerns across its schools. We appreciate the opportunity to support the district with independent review and practical next steps.

Sincerely,

Dan Whittaker, CIEC, CMI
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Environmental Solutions Group