

## Chapter 179: AN ACT DRIVING CLEAN ENERGY AND OFFSHORE WIND

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2022/Chapter179>

SECTION 83. (a) The Massachusetts School Building Authority shall conduct an assessment of elementary and secondary school buildings relative to energy efficiency, building conditions, safety, and public health. The assessment shall include cataloging the age and condition of any building systems relying on the on-site combustion of fossil fuels. The assessment shall be conducted in coordination with ongoing assessments or surveys of the authority. The authority shall determine the means of conducting the assessment which may include a representative sample of schools. In planning said assessment, the authority shall consult with the department of public health, the department of elementary and secondary education and the department of energy resources.

Following completion of the assessment, the department of public health, in consultation with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the department of elementary and secondary education, and the department of energy resources, shall develop, and report on, methods, best practices, and standards for achieving green and healthy schools strategies to for the students of the commonwealth. Methods, best practices, and standards may involve, but shall not be limited to: (i) increasing energy efficiency, increasing electrification, and shifting to fossil-free fuels; (ii) efficiently using resources, including, but not limited to, low flow water fixtures; (iii) improving water and air quality, ventilation, and air circulation systems; (iv) maintaining thermal comfort, humidity, and temperature controls; and (v) taking other actions the department may determine.

The department of public health shall issue a report on the methods, best practices and standards and may include recommendations to prioritize schools with the greatest needs, consider the unique environmental differences of schools located in urban, industrial, rural and other areas facing site challenges, and consider the need to address historic patterns of inequity in education and schools including, but not limited to, patterns of inequity involving students in special education programs. The report shall include a projected cost estimates for implementing its recommendations in a cost-effective manner.

(b) The report shall be published on the website of the department of public health and submitted to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy, the joint committee on public health, and the joint committee on education not later than December 31, 2024.

(c) Any findings or recommendations may be used to guide the department of elementary and secondary education in its implementation of item 1599-2055 of section 2A of chapter 102 of the acts of 2021.