

In the beginning ...



Dear Representative Ortitay,
Citizens for Radioactive Radon
Reduction (CR3) met with you
on **March 10, 2020** regarding
radon testing in schools.



And then ...



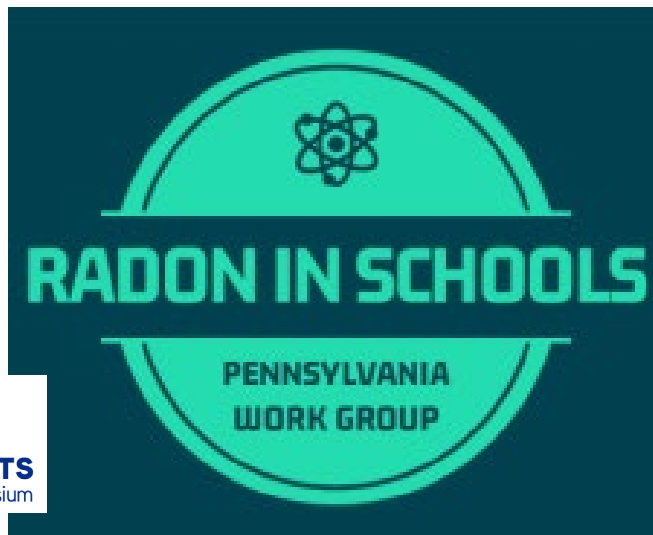
Harrisburg, PA
2023

At the Capitol ...



Presenter: Nate Burden, PA IEA Chapter President
nateburden@msn.com

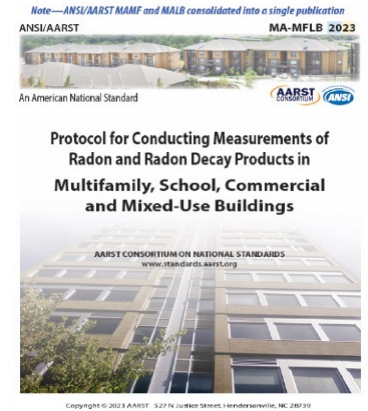
2019-2025 and Ongoing



PA RADON SCHOOL BILLS: MISSION PARTNERS

Key Points of the 2 Radon School Bills

THE BILLS WERE WRITTEN BY IEA MEMBERS- INPUT FROM AARON FISHER, JOHN MALLON, NATE BURDEN, JANE MALONE AND ALA-KEVIN STEWART ALONG WITH THE SENATOR'S AND REPRESENTATIVE'S STAFF



- Mandatory radon testing for all public K-12 schools in PA in accordance to the **ANSI/AARST MA-MFLB 2023 standard**.
- Testing performed every 5 years for schools with levels below 4.0 pCi/L
- Testing should be performed in the colder months (Oct.-March)
- Schools tested with radon levels 4.0 pCi/L or higher must be mitigated by state certified radon mitigation contractors within 90 days.
- School radon test reports shall be provided to the public and the PA DEP.
- Schools with radon mitigation systems shall be retested and inspected every 2 years.
- Any new public schools being built, shall have radon resistant new construction design/systems built in according to the ANSI/AARST CC-1000-2018-0523.
- Designed to be a funded mandate included in governor's budget(\$9 million for testing & \$26 million estimated for mitigation for the state). Met with the Governor key staff.

2 Harrisburg capitol building media events: 2023 and 2025.





Senate Bill 1328

2023-2024 REGULAR SESSION

SB1327

Share  

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, providing for radon testing.

Co-Sponsorship Memo

[Radon Testing in Schools](#)



[Current Text](#)



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[How to read a bill](#)

Prime Sponsor



Senator Devlin Robinson



Senate District 37

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Sen. Daniel Laughlin



Senate District 49



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Senate District 4



Sen. James Brewster



Senate District 45



Sen. John Kane



Senate District 9



Sen. Judith Schwank



Senate District 11



Sen. Nick Miller



Senate District 14



Sen. Katie Muth



Senate District 14



Sen. Rosemary Brown



Senate District 40



House Bill 289

2025-2026 REGULAR SESSION

← HB288

HB2

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Follow

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, providing for radon testing.

Co-Sponsorship Memo

Radon Testing in Schools

Prime Sponsor



Representative Tim Briggs

House District 149

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Rep. Jose Giral

House District 180



Rep. Carol Hill-Evans

House District 95



Rep. Chris Pielli

House District 156



Rep. Jim Haddock

House District 118



Rep. Robert Freeman

House District 136



Rep. Jeanne McNeill

House District 133



Rep. Benjamin Sanchez

House District 153



Current Text



Print History



How to read a bill



PENNSYLVANIA

The Radon Report Card: Risk and Response

Population and Lung Cancer Total Population: 12,800,922



Lung Cancer Deaths:
6,778



Age-Adjusted Lung Cancer Incidence Rate
(per 100,000) **60**

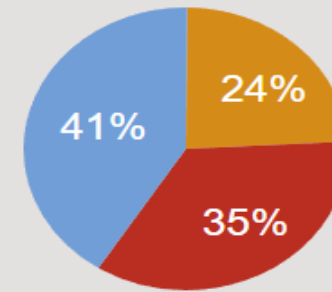
Lung Cancer Cases **10,805**

Radon-Induced Lung Cancer Cases **3,018**

* Medical Costs (hospital, medicine, doctors) **\$607,000,000**

* Economic Costs (lost wages / productivity) **\$637,000,000**

Buildings and Exposure Potential Pre-Mitigation Radon Tests: 940,627



Percent by Radon Level

- < 2 pCi/L
- ≥ 2 to < 4 pCi/L
- ≥ 4 pCi/L



Housing Units by Structure Type

| | 1 to 4 Units | 5 or More Units | Total |
|----------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Existing | 5,004,266 | 687,557 | 5,691,823 |
| New | 16,442 | 7,097 | 23,539 |



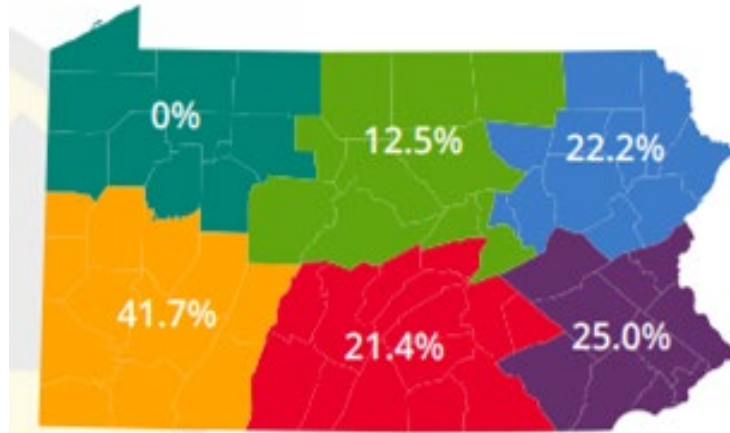
Public Schools: **2,947**

EPA and ANSI-AARST Radon Measurement Standards recommend fixing a building with a radon level ≥ (above or equal to) 4 pCi/L and consider fixing it if any radon level is ≥ 2 and < (below) 4 pCi/L.

Statewide Radon Policies

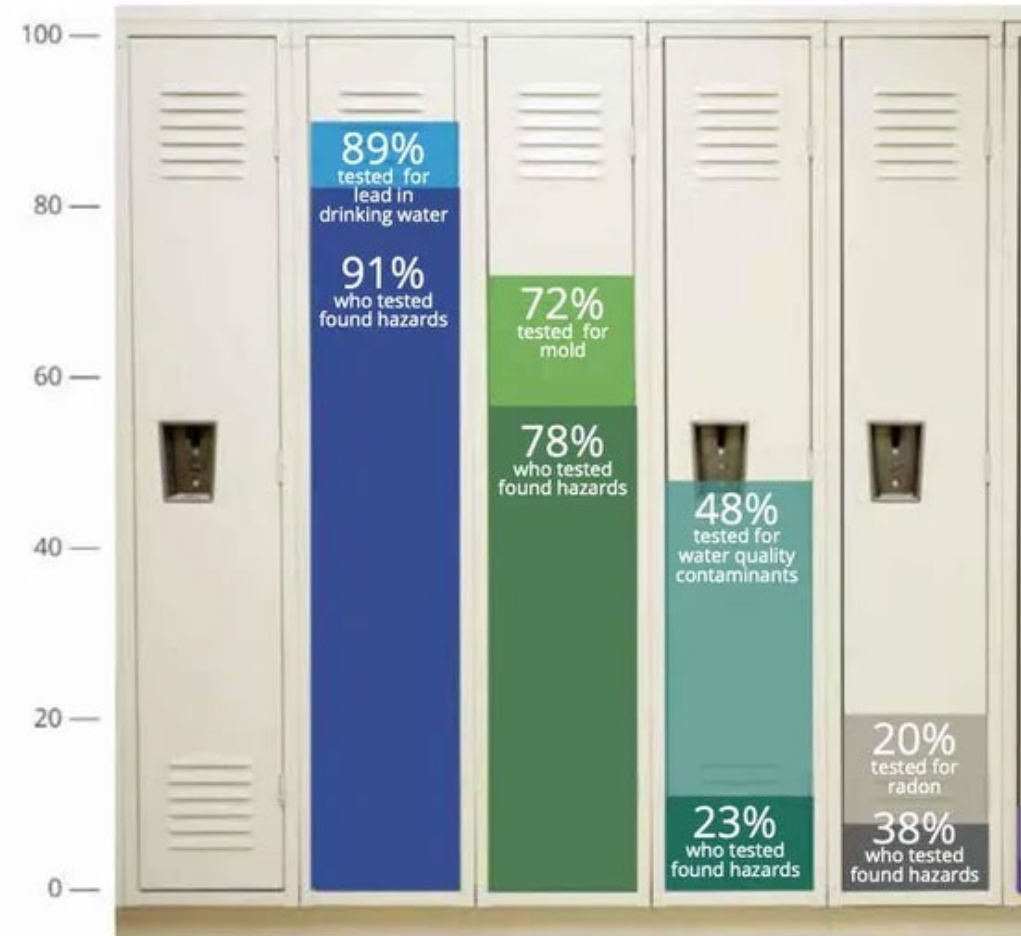
| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Credential Required | ✓ | State Certification |
| Radon Standards in Effect | ✓ | PA Testing and Mitigation; EPA Schools; ANSI-AARST Multifamily |
| Homebuyer Protection Required | ✓ | Disclosure Only |
| Radon System Requirement for New Homes | ✗ | No |
| Type of New Home Where Required | | N/A |
| Standard/Code for Radon System in New Homes | | N/A |
| School Testing Required | ✗ | No |
| Radon System Requirement for New Schools | ✗ | No |

WHE State of Environmental Health in PA Schools (2021)



Schools Districts who tested for Radon in at least one school building

| School District | Testing Occurred | Action Level Exceedance |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Avonworth School District | 14 March 2019 | 34 classrooms above 4 pci/L |
| West Allegheny School District | Not reported | N/A |
| Moon Area School District | 26 April 2018 | None above 4 pci/L |
| Quaker Valley School District | 4 January 2018 | None above 4 pci/L |



Radon in Schools: A Brief Review of State Laws and Regulations in the U.S. (Sept 2018)

| State | % of Counties Designated as EPA Zone 1 or Zone 2 ^a | Radon Test | Time Requirement for Initial Testing | Frequency of Re-Testing | Type of School Covered | | Who May Conduct the Testing | | New School RRNC Requirement | Mitigation Requirement for Radon Level ≤ 4 pCi/L |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| | | | | | Public | Private | SE | CP | | |
| Colorado | 100 | Required | Within 19 months of occupancy | ND | Yes | Yes | ND | ND | No | No |
| Connecticut | 87.5 | Required | ND | Every 5 years | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Florida | 13.4 | Required ^b | Within 12 months of occupancy | Twice, 5 years apart | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| Illinois | 100 | Recommend | ND | Every 5 years | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Iowa | 100 | Encourage | ND | ND | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| Minnesota | 100 | Voluntary | ND | ND | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes ^c |
| New Jersey | 85.7 | Required | ND | Every 5 years | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| New York | 75.8 | Required ^d | ND | ND | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| Oregon | 58.3 | Required | ND ^e | Every 10 years | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Rhode Island | 80 | Required | ND | Every three years ^f | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| Tennessee | 77.8 | Encourage | ND | ND | Yes | No | ND | ND | No | No |
| Virginia | 71.6 | Required | With 18 months of occupancy | ND | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| West Virginia | 87.5 | Required | With 12 month of occupancy | Every 5 years | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |

ND: Not Defined; SE: School Employees; CP: Certified Professionals. ^a: Based on USEPA Radon Map <https://www.epa.gov/radon/find-information-about-local-radon-zones-and-state-contact-information#radonmap>. ^b: All schools in continuous use since before 1 July 1994 must test 100% first floor or below grade rooms, 20% second floor rooms, and 10% third floor rooms; For school opened between 1 July 1994 and 30 June 1999 must test 100% first floor; For school opened or structurally changed since 1 July 1999, 20% of ground contact rooms must be tested. ^c: School districts that receive health and safety revenue to conduct radon testing must take re-test after corrective measures that reduce radon levels. ^d: School should review geological potential for radon and to decide if test is necessary. Radon testing is only required for public schools located in Radon Zone 1. ^e: Statewide radon testing in school must be completed on or before 1 January 2021. ^f: If initial testing is ≤ 4 pCi/L, 10% of the areas must be re-tested 3 years after; A different 10% of the building must be tested every 3 years thereafter.

Children are at a greater risk of radon exposure.

1000+ Hours: the average number of hours a child spends in a school building every year.



Actions to Achieved Passing of the Bills

- Presented the radon school bill to the PA DEP RPAC committee (over 60 attendees across the state)
- Due the delay of the Governor PA budget, the group is planning several webinars to the public, teachers, PTA, nurses, PA Cancer Coalition (over 200 members)
- Express purpose is awareness/support of the bills with attendees calling their local representatives.
- Meeting with sponsoring senators and representatives.
- Bills should be introduced by end of the year by the sponsors.
- **The next project is mandatory radon testing of PA childcare facilities.**
- **We will be willing to assist any chapter in starting a school radon bill.**

CONCLUSION AND CALL FOR ACTION

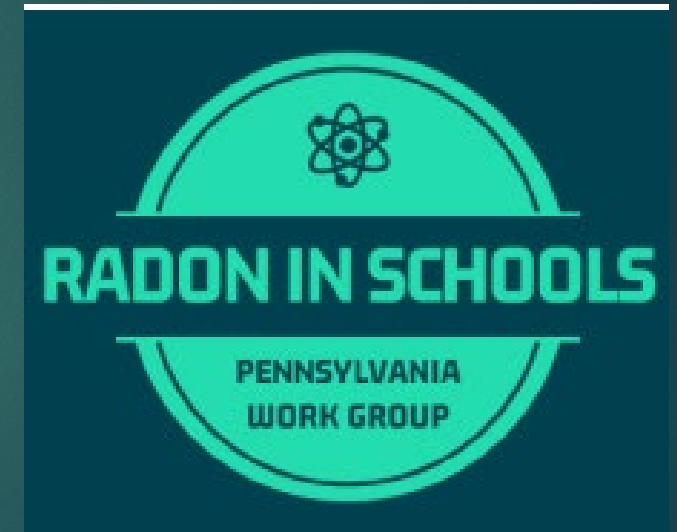
Reach out to your state senators and representatives about these two school bills that require radon testing and mitigation for all PA schools.



RADON RISK REDUCTION FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD BE A “STANDARD OF CARE” MANDATE

Senate Bill 1328 & House Bill 289

Thank You Radon in Schools Pennsylvania Workgroup and Senator Devlin Robinson/Rep. Tim Briggs Offices!



**Health Equity for our Children:
Pathway of Prevention**

