

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	20-RENEW-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program
<b>TN #:</b>	236579
<b>Document Title:</b>	Comments from The R Group - Request to Allow Grant cover Approved COVID Mitigation Changes
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
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Date: February 3, 2021

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Project Title: School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program

Dear CEC Staff and Commissioners,

Many schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods have inefficient mechanical and electrical systems in need of appropriate replacement. Maintenance of these systems is unable to return the systems to original operation yielding wasted energy throughout the campus. The HVAC Systems require more than just replacement. The opportunity to implement the correct ventilation mitigating the infected aerosol virus recirculation is upon replacement, repair with technically engineered plans appropriately scoping out the work to be done. Individuals that are not licensed professionals recognized by the State may inappropriately specify work that does not benefit Ventilation system nor the efficient HVAC upgrade. Licensed contractors and skilled union labor do not possess the design knowledge nor the skills to analyze the appropriate implementation the correct design to mitigate the COVID virus from recirculating in the rooms occupied by children and adults.

To better serve the individuals gathering in educational buildings the AB841 programs need to mirror the lessons that benefited the schools in implementation. Budget for implementation plans is necessary to best serve the schools to protect the occupants. Just inserting an 85% efficient MERV 13 into the Package AC units is far from the solution as the COVID-19 molecular size passes right through. The schools need a compliment of solutions. Engineering design firms need to correct the ventilation for restrooms, classrooms, and administrative offices. Budget to design and plan for safe occupancy in the building includes HVAC upgrades and repairs as well. Having ventilation corrected and appropriate Scope of Work identified by Licensed Professionals allows for DSA (Division of State Architect) to approve lifesaving ventilation changes and corrections.

Schematic plans, contractor estimates, and Project Managers are able to support successful projects for understaffed schools in underserved neighborhoods. Upon Grant funding the Project Manager can implement the project for the Schools by obtaining Approved plans with appropriate Scope of work including Commissioning, certifications, and inspections.

We at The R Group recognize and implement the science that has traveled the world to successfully address removing the Infected Aerosol Virus from building ventilation. The technologies are accessible and being used every day. This combined with strategic implementation and maintenance plan will afford the school everlasting safety during building occupancy. The technologies are energy efficient and need to be integrated into the schools far behind in their mechanical and electrical systems.

I respectfully request that the Grant considers extended applications of Ventilation improvement be allowed to cover COVID Mitigation in the Ventilation systems of schools keeping occupants in the rooms safe from Infected Aerosol Virus transmission.

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Thank you for your consideration

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