



October 23, 2025

Dear Families,

Memphis Community Schools has received the official Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) testing reports from Nova Environmental for both Memphis High School and Memphis Elementary School. The full reports are now on the District's website, directly accessible by clicking [HERE](#). Below is a clear and transparent summary of the results, and outline the specific steps Memphis Community Schools will take in response.

Summary of Air Quality Results

Nova Environmental performed air sampling in both buildings, checking several rooms and comparing them to an outdoor sample taken at the same time. In most rooms at both schools, the indoor mold counts were significantly lower than the outdoor counts taken that day.

The results use an outdoor air sample as a benchmark, since outdoor air typically contains higher levels of mold spores than well-maintained indoor spaces. On the day of testing, the outdoor sample measured 5,650 mold spore counts per cubic meter. This means most indoor areas were well below what's normal outside. Only a few specific rooms, as listed below, showed elevated counts approaching the outdoor benchmark. Even though the numbers in these areas were not above the threshold, MCS takes these elevated numbers incredibly seriously and has a plan to address and reassess as outlined below.

- **Memphis High School:** With the exception of room 127, all rooms tested significantly lower than outside. Room 127 came back with higher levels of *Aspergillus/Penicillium* than all of the other rooms tested.
- **Memphis Elementary School:** Again, most rooms had significantly lower counts than outdoors, with the exception of Rooms 6, 13, and 16, where elevated levels of *Aspergillus/Penicillium* were detected.

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District Actions in Response to Elevated Rooms

In direct response to the identified rooms (Room 127 at the High School and Rooms 6, 13, and 16 at the Elementary), Memphis Community Schools will be taking the following actions:

- **Regular, Thorough Cleaning:** The district will perform regular, thorough cleaning of all elevated rooms following the EPA Guidelines. This includes using methods and products designed to effectively remove mold and prevent regrowth, focusing on both visible and hidden surfaces, and ensuring ventilation systems run during cleaning.



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- Purchase of New HEPA Vacuums: The district will purchase new HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) vacuums. (Currently district vacuums are not HEPA vacuums.)
- Purchase of New HEPA Air Scrubbers: *HEPA air scrubbers* are specialized machines that filter and remove all airborne particles—including mold spores—helping to dramatically improve air quality during and after cleaning. (Currently the district does not own any HEPA air scrubbers. The district has asked NOVA for their recommended air scrubber and will proceed with their recommended product.)
- Carpet Removal and Replacement with Non-Porous Flooring: In all elevated rooms, the district will remove carpeting and install non-porous flooring. Hard, non-porous flooring is less likely to hold moisture and is easier to clean thoroughly, reducing mold risk. (This was already on the Bond 2024 work list.)
- Increased HVAC Filter Changes to Every 3 Months: To further improve air quality and reduce the potential for mold, the district is increasing HVAC filter replacement frequency in elevated rooms from every 6 months to every 3 months.
- Quarterly Heater Unit Cleaning: Heating units in the elevated rooms will be disassembled and vacuumed every 3 months to remove accumulated dust and spores, and this process will be repeated each quarter.
- Consult with NOVA to determine when enough HEPA air scrubbing cycles have been completed for NOVA to come out and retest elevated rooms. As soon as NOVA confirms a good retest date has been reached, an additional air quality testing cycle will be performed. All future reports will be shared as soon as they are received.

Once again, the district is beyond grateful for its staff for bringing this request to admin's attention. MCS is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment throughout our schools and will monitor these rooms closely, making adjustments as necessary. If you have questions, would like a detailed explanation of the IAQ reports, or want to discuss next steps, please contact me directly—I am happy to meet individually or in groups at your convenience.

Thank you for your support and engagement as we work to ensure the healthiest possible environment for all students and staff.

Sincerely,

Sara Dobbelaer, Superintendent
Memphis Community Schools