Option Fourteen: Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

Though children and staff had to leave the school building following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the virus itself revealed the significant need for increased investment in capital improvement and maintenance in our nation’s school infrastructure. The costs of capital improvement and maintenance are steep, and current federal relief will not cover all those costs, but policymakers nevertheless can use ESSER funds to begin the process of investing in much-needed capital improvement and repair. Some options on how to do that include the following.

- Repair school ventilation systems to improve air quality and reduce spread of COVID-19.
- Update or replace heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.
- Invest in portable air purifications systems.