

Healthy Environments Advance Learning

# NEWSLETTER



**Built on vision and driven by purpose, nearly two decades in the making, Rhode Island has launched a historic \$5 billion investment, the largest in the state's history, to transform school facilities at scale.** With 50 new school buildings underway, HEAL is supporting this renaissance by prioritizing indoor environmental quality, sustainability, resiliency, and equitable access to modern learning environments, all with students at the center. Together with state agencies, districts, and partners, Rhode Island is demonstrating what is possible when long-term vision is paired with coordinated action.

*Join us for a year in review!*

## CELEBRATIONS

Ribbon cuttings, beam signings, and groundbreakings across nearly every community in Rhode Island mark visible progress in a historic, statewide transformation. These moments celebrate more than new buildings. They affirm investment in students and educators while signaling a long-term commitment to education. At the same time, this unprecedented investment is driving economic growth, creating thousands of jobs, and strengthening the workforce delivering this transformation statewide.



## DOLLARS TO DISTRICTS

Through initiatives such as the School Infrastructure Readiness Initiative, Solar on Schools, and other targeted investments, HEAL is delivering more than \$1.4 million in additional resources to support our highest need districts. These resources are advancing resiliency, sustainability, and long-term cost savings while reducing energy use, lowering operating costs, and improving indoor air quality. The result is healthier learning environments and reinvestment back into classrooms and communities.



## IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY

In partnership with Rhode Island Energy, The Energy Efficiency Group, and others, HEAL conducted system assessments in the state's highest-need districts. These efforts informed targeted improvements to HVAC systems, controls, and ventilation, supported by the installation of indoor air quality monitors to establish baselines and track progress over time. This coordinated approach strengthens health, comfort, and performance for students and staff.



Contact Sara Tucker at [Sara.Tucker@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Sara.Tucker@ride.ri.gov) for more information.

## THE HEAL SUMMIT



The HEAL Summit was the first major statewide event, bringing together educators, architects, designers, and industry leaders in a shared space to reimagine learning environments through a student-centered lens. Hosted by VS America, WB Mason, and the HEAL team, the summit celebrated the power of collaboration and showcased cutting-edge insights, including the neuroscience of posture and movement. Participants explored how flexible furniture and intentional spatial design can enhance engagement, comfort, and cognitive performance for students and educators. The summit stands as a pinnacle of this work, highlighting the impact of partnerships in transforming schools and shaping future-ready learning environments.

## POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS

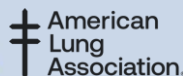


Recognizing that collaboration drives impact, HEAL partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Health, Brown University, and other key stakeholders to improve indoor air quality in schools across our state. Through expanded training, professional development, and technical assistance including webinars and the inaugural HEAL Summit, HEAL is strengthening school capacity and cultivating champions for healthy, high-performing learning environments. This includes empowering school nurses and infrastructure leaders to support the people who safeguard occupant health and wellbeing every day.

*"Upgrading school facilities to 21st-century environments demonstrates our unwavering commitment to ensuring Rhode Island students have the best educational outcomes possible... When we invest in our children, we are investing in the future."*

*Angélica Infante-Green,  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Rhode Island*

*Thank you to our LEAs and Partners!*



Contact Sara Tucker at [Sara.Tucker@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Sara.Tucker@ride.ri.gov) for more information.