Indiana Department of Health

Mike Braun
Governor

Lindsay M. Weaver, MD, FACEP
State Health Commissioner

October 1, 2026

RLP #679
Joe Therber, President
Lafayette Catholic School System
2410 S. 9th Street
Lafayette, IN 47909

Dear Mr. Therber:

The purpose of this letter is to report the result of our indoor air quality evaluation at St. Lawrence Catholic Elementary School on September 23rd. This evaluation was conducted at the request of a concerned citizen to address the health concerns of the occupants that may be related to indoor air quality at the school.

The Indiana State Department of Health's Microbiological Laboratory incubated and counted the fungal and bacterial units. The total colony forming units per cubic meter of air (CFU/M^3) were computed by adding the fungal and bacterial counts and dividing the sum by the total volume of the sampled air. Please refer to Table 1 for further details. Fungal (mold) concentrations inside the building were lower than the outdoor concentration. There are no limits established as an acceptable concentration of fungal counts indoors. There are guidelines that recommend having lower concentrations indoors compared to outdoors.

The Carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels inside were measured with the highest reading at 1664 CO_2 per million parts of air (ppm). The School Indoor Air Quality rule, 410 IAC 33-4-2 states "(a) "Outdoor Air shall be supplied to classrooms when occupied. (b) Carbon dioxide concentrations in the breathing zone shall never exceed 700 ppm over the outdoor concentration, in this case giving a limit of 1126 ppm. ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers) recommends 15 cfm (cubic feet per minute) of outdoor air per person for classrooms.

The outdoor relative humidity was determined at 66 percent (%), and the indoor relative humidity had a range of 52% to 63%. The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommend the relative humidity in habitable spaces preferably should be maintained between 30% and 60% to minimize growth of allergenic and pathogenic organisms. Humidity levels above 50% have been found to increase the population size of molds, fungi and mites that may cause allergies. The evidence suggests that humidity levels should be maintained between 40% and 50% to reduce the incidence of upper respiratory infections and to minimize the adverse effect on people suffering from asthma or allergies. Such a range would be hard to maintain, however, exposure to higher or lower levels are unlikely to affect the health of most people.

Based on our measurements and our visual inspection we note the following:

1) **410 IAC 33-4-2 (b): states "carbon dioxide concentrations in the breathing zone shall never exceed 700 ppm over the outdoor concentration".** Several classrooms exceeded the carbon dioxide concentration limit of 1126 ppm. Please check the dampers to ensure that adequate amounts of fresh air is being brought into the occupied classrooms as specified in the 410 IAC 33 rule.
2) **410 IAC 33-4-6 (c): states "when a water leak or intrusion is discovered, corrective action shall be taken within forty-eight (48) hours".** We noticed there were stained ceiling tile in Mrs. Bender's and Mrs. Millazo's classrooms. Please inspect the areas for active water leaks and/or drips. Replace any stained ceiling tile as they are discovered.
3) **410 IAC 33 also requires schools to have written policies for Vehicle Idling, Animals in Classrooms, and Chemical Management.** The school did not have written policies. If any of these apply, the rule requires all schools to have these written policies in place.
4) **410 IAC 33 requires schools to designate an individual as their Indoor Air Coordinator and states "The IAQ Coordinator's contact information shall also be published: 1) on the school website and 2) in the school handbook".** The school needs to designate an Indoor Air Coordinator and ensure they are meeting the requirements specified in the rule.
5) **410 IAC 33-5 a) states "Schools shall establish and maintain a written procedure for routine maintenance of HVAC systems".** This procedure shall

include but is not limited to the following items: 1) A schedule for inspecting the HVAC system including an annual inspection. 2) Ensuring that all supply and return air pathways in the ventilation system are unobstructed and perform as required. 3) A schedule for cleaning the HVAC coils annually at a minimum. 4) A schedule for inspecting and changing filters. 410 IAC 33-5 b) states "Schools shall establish and maintain written maintenance logs covering cleaning and filter changes of the HVAC systems for a minimum of three (3) years. These written procedures and logs do not have to be maintained on site, but there needs to be a means of making them available for our inspector's review.

The School Indoor Air Quality rule 410 IAC 33 is available at https://www.in.gov/health/eph/files/A00330.pdf.

We have prepared Best Practices documents to aid schools in developing the policies required under this rule at https://www.in.gov/health/eph/files/Indoor-Air-Quality-in-Schools-Best-Practices-Manual.pdf

410 IAC 33 requires you to respond within 60 days of any actions you take based upon this report.

The School Indoor Air Quality rule 410 IAC 33-6-2 requires this report and any response to this report be posted within (5) days of receipt. The report(s) shall remain posted for (14) consecutive days both at the school building stated in the report, and on the school's website, where it is accessible to students, parents, and employees.

Individuals experiencing health problems should seek medical advice from a physician.

If you have questions, I can be reached at 317.682.9030.

Sincerely,

RICK PLEW, Industrial Hygienist
Indoor Air Section, Environmental Public Health Division
Enclosure

TABLE 1

St. Lawrence Catholic Elementary School
Lafayette, IN 47909

Computed Microbiological Air Sample Results
Taken September 23, 2026

Sample	Location	Persons	Temp °F	RH %	CO2 ppm	Fungal CFU/M^3	Bacterial CFU/M^3
1	Mrs. Gregg	5	68	55	1203	440	40
2	Mrs. Minnich	3	69	63	918	360	60
3	Library	5	71	58	785	420	40
4	Miss Brouillette	16	69	53	1178	320	180
5	Mrs. Bender	16	71	59	1451	600	140
6	Mrs. Kubsch	13	68	52	909	100	60
7	Miss Sauselie	3	70	54	927	200	20
8	Mrs. Spalling	16	69	58	1401	180	100
9	Mrs. Millazo	20	68	58	1421	400	60
10	Mrs. Voorhees	21	73	57	1664	800	40
11	Outdoor	0	63	66	426	1160	20

Notes:

% ---------percent
ppm-------parts per million
CFU/M^3—colony forming units per cubic meter of air

LAFAYETTE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

2410 S. 9th Street | Lafayette, IN 47909 | 765.474.7500

October 5, 2026

Mr. Rick Plew
Industrial Hygienist
Indoor Air Section, Environmental Public Health Division
Indiana Department of Health
2 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN. 46204

Dear Mr. Plew:

Thank you very much for your visit to St. Lawrence Catholic Elementary School on September 23, 2026; your follow-up written report dated October 1, 2026; and our phone conversation on October 1, 2026. We at St. Lawrence Catholic Elementary School, the Lafayette Catholic School System, and the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana are committed to the health and safety of our students, educators, and visitors.

As you requested, we will have taken the actions that you advised in the report, and we will have sent you a written summary of our actions, within 60 days of receiving your report on October 1. Additionally as you requested, your written report is and will remain posted at the school building and on the school website for the next 14 days. In the meantime, we will contact you if we have any questions.

Thank you very much once again for your time and support of our school mission.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph S. Therber

Joe Therber
President