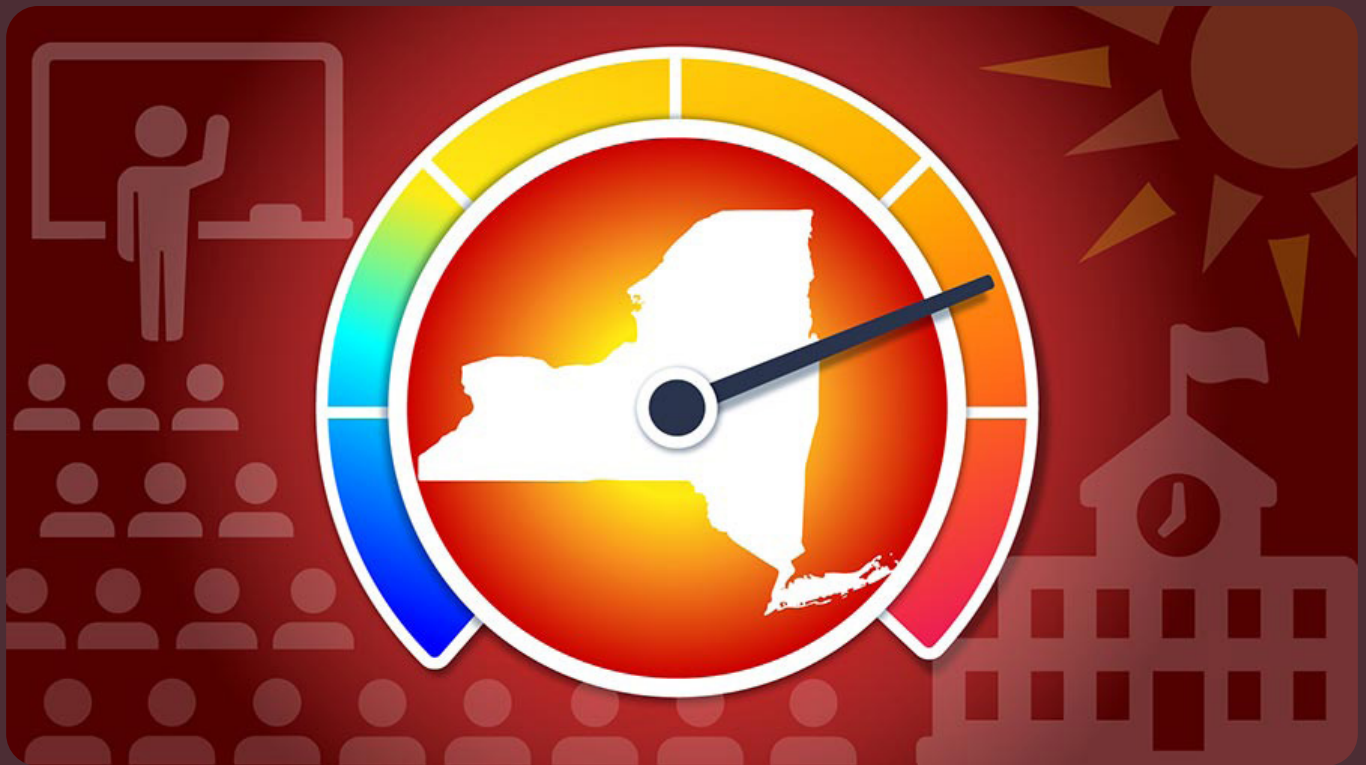


nysut



Overheated: Excessive Classroom Heat

Personal stories of the effects of extreme temperatures in our schools submitted by educators, students and parents from across New York state.

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We Can't Take the Heat: Educators share first-hand accounts of extreme classroom temperatures

I've had a headache all week.

My kids and I are sweating the minute we walk into the classroom.

The students struggle to focus.

My classroom hit 107 degrees this afternoon.

Those were just a few of the nearly 1,000 personal accounts educators submitted when asked to share their stories about extreme classroom heat, particularly in September of 2023 when temperatures soared to record-breaking heights. Since most schools in New York state lack air conditioning, temperatures well into the 90s pushed educators and students to the breaking point, turning classrooms into saunas and leaving educators struggling to cool off with fans that did little more than push hot air around. One educator noted that passersby are encouraged to shatter car windows if pets are left in overheated vehicles. Why is it acceptable for students and educators to teach and learn in 90-degree-plus classrooms?

High temperatures put students and educators at risk, particularly the medically vulnerable. Educators reported students being sent home due to heat-related illnesses, pregnant teachers feeling dizzy in oppressive classrooms and teachers vomiting due to heat and dehydration. One teacher spent over \$300 on fans in a futile attempt to cool her sweltering classroom. Others purchased blackout curtains and ice pops in a desperate effort to keep students cool.

Aside from making students and educators miserable, research shows that extreme classroom temperatures undercut learning. (*See Research: The Impact of Heat on Health and Learning*)

New York state students and educators deserve better. That's why NYSUT is urging state lawmakers to pass S.3397 (Skoufis) and A.9011 (Eachus) to establish unsafe maximum room temperatures in school buildings. If approved the law would require that districts address heat conditions when classroom temperatures hit 82 degrees and vacate classrooms entirely at 88 degrees. The State Education Department already requires a minimum classroom temperature of 65 degrees in colder months. Schools need similar guidelines for heat. "When classrooms are too hot, students can't learn and teachers can't teach," said NYSUT President Melinda Person. "It's time to protect students and educators by setting maximum room temperatures in school buildings."



School nurse Suzanne McCarty applies an ice pack to help an overheated student cool down.

ANDREW WATSON

Research: The impact of heat on health and learning

Excessive heat is not just uncomfortable for children, it's dangerous. Research demonstrates that excessive classroom temperatures cause physical distress for children, lowers their academic performance and can lead to medical emergencies and death.

Heat is unhealthy

While some have argued that overheated classrooms are a fact of public-school life, something children must grin and bear, research proves that children are one of the populations least capable of coping with excessive heat.

Children are at higher risk of experiencing heat-related illness than many other populations because they are less efficient thermoregulators. They have smaller cardiovascular output and a higher metabolic rate than adults, which increases their vulnerability.¹ Children feel heat and humidity faster and more severely than adults and have a harder time cooling down, explains Connie Kostacos, M.D. in her article, "Heat Stroke and Kids: What to Watch For and Know."² "A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's. Compared to adults, children have more surface area relative to their mass and that's why they absorb heat faster. Children also lose heat more slowly due to a less developed sweating mechanism and lower blood volume compared to adults," Kostacos writes.

Children exposed to a heat index of 90 or above are susceptible to dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Thermal distress can damage the heart, kidneys and other organs. As body temperature increases, blood flow to the brain decreases because blood is needed elsewhere. For children with diabetes or other chronic health conditions, heat can destabilize the body's already fragile equilibrium.

Heat harms learning

Research also demonstrates that excessive classroom temperatures can negatively impact learning. In one study, researchers examined brain electrical activity of individuals who were under thermal stress and found heat interrupted their cognitive functioning, specifically working memory, information retention and information processing³. In another New York City-based study, one researcher who examined the test data of 990,000 high school students and correlated it with temperature discovered that heat did indeed negatively impact their test performance. Taking an exam on a 90-degree day results in lower test scores, a 12.3 percent higher likelihood of failing a subject, and a 2.5 percent lower likelihood of graduating on-time. "I find that heat exposure during an exam exerts a causal and economically meaningful impact on educational achievement, even when controlling for individual student ability," concludes Jisung Park in "Temperature, Test Scores and Human Capital Production."

In another study, this one with 10- to 12-year-old students, the performance of two numerical and two language-based tests was significantly improved when the temperature was reduced, and improved again when ventilation was increased⁴. In another study, math scores rose an average of 2.8 percent when temperatures dropped from 78 degrees to 67 degrees⁵.



EL-WISE NOISETTE

Can't stand the heat? Food service personnel endure excessive temperatures in kitchens across the state.

But heat doesn't just impact test taking in the moment, researchers also found that heat during the school year can impact how much students learn overall. According to one study, which uses the test scores of 10 million American high school students, a 1-degree hotter school year lowers the scores by 0.002 standard deviation, or slightly less than one percent of a year's worth of learning, and a day above 100 degrees has an effect that is up to 50 percent larger⁶. The damage was even more pronounced for economically disadvantaged or minority communities. "For students living in ZIP codes in the lowest quintile of average income, a 1-degree hotter prior school year is three times as damaging to academic achievement as it is for those living in the highest quintile of income," writes Joshua Goodman in "Heat and Learning."

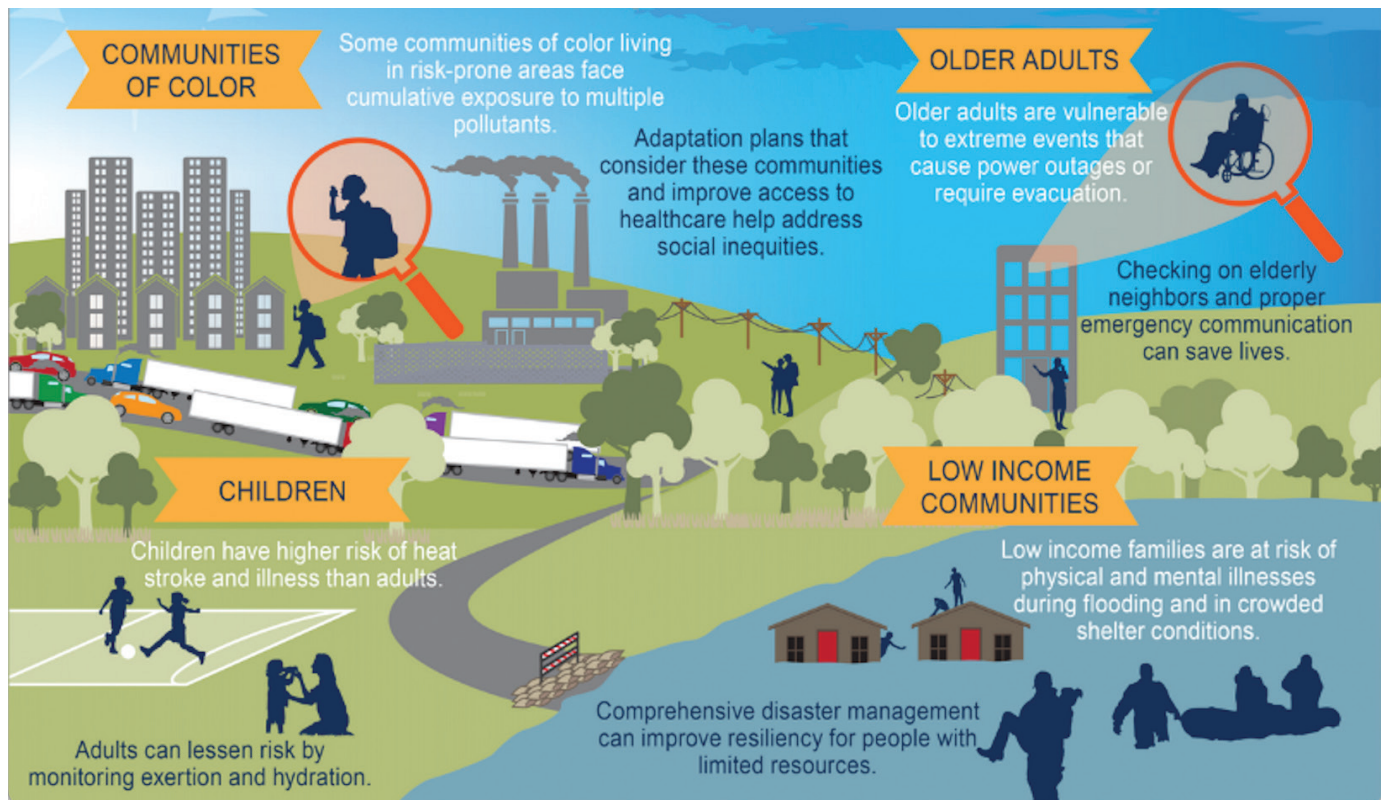
Conclusion

While some have waved off concerns about rising indoor temperatures, chalking it up to overreaction, research proves that excessive heat poses added health risks for children. In fact, because of their physiology, children are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses and slower to recover. Research has established that excessive temperatures undermine students' academic performance and furthermore, that those conditions, even if only temporary, can permanently impact student achievement.

Establishing a consistent and comfortable temperature for classrooms is not just a nicety — it is a necessity for the health, safety, and learning of our students.

Footnotes:

- ¹ National Integrated Heat Health System. *Who is most at risk to extreme heat?*
<https://www.heat.gov/pages/who-is-at-risk-to-extreme-heat>
- ² Kostacos, Connie. (2023) Heat Stroke and Kids: What to Watch For and Know. *Columbia University-Irving Medical Center*. <https://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/news/heat-stroke-kids-what-watch-and-know>
- ³ Hocking C, Silberstein RB, Lau WM, Stough C, Roberts W. (April, 2001) *Evaluation of cognitive performance in the heat by functional brain imaging and psychometric testing*. *Comp Biochem Physiol A Mol Integr Physiol*.
- ⁴ Pawel Wargocki & David P. Wyon (Feb. 2011) *The Effects of Moderately Raised Classroom Temperatures and Classroom Ventilation Rate on the Performance of Schoolwork by Children* (RP-1257), HVAC&R Research.
- ⁵ Haverinen-Shaughnessy U, Shaughnessy RJ (August 2015) *Effects of Classroom Ventilation Rate and Temperature on Students' Test Scores*. *PLoS ONE* 10(8): e0136165.
- ⁶ Goodman, Joshua, Michael Hurwitz, Jisung Park, and Jonathan Smith. (May, 2018) "Heat and Learning." HKS Faculty Research Working Paper Series RWP18-014.



SOURCE: NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT, FIGURE 14.2

Who Is Most At Risk to Extreme Heat? Children face greater risk of heat-related illnesses than other populations.

Educator testimonies: Temps are spiking, and teachers are speaking up

Across New York, heat continues to take its toll on school districts. This past September, indoor classroom temperatures reached mid-90s and 100 degrees in parts of the state, prompting teachers and parents alike to ask how children can be expected to learn — let alone function — in these inhumane conditions. Teachers reported kids were in tears, passing out, throwing up, and barely coherent. In the lower grades, children could be heard calling out for their mothers.

This is not the first time educators have spoken up about excessive temperatures in classrooms. In fact, the issue comes up every year when school faculty and personnel along with students return to our aging public-school infrastructure. Students and educators are forced to suffer inside these overheated classrooms and learning spaces for as long as the heat lasts, with no reprieve from district officials or state leaders.

Worse yet, these brutal conditions arise during the fall and spring, coinciding disastrously with what everyone can agree are the two busiest and most stressful times of the year for students — back-to-school and end-of-year testing. While for too long these pleas have fallen on deaf ears, many lawmakers have expressed interest in working with NYSUT on this issue and we will continue to turn up the heat.

“My classroom of 3- and 4-year-olds opened this year under a heat wave. The temps started at 83 at 7:30 a.m. and soared to 94 by 1:30 in the afternoon. My kids were crying for their mamas because they were so overheated. There has to be a legal claim that this is inhumane and child abuse.” — Middle Country

“This is my sixth-year teaching in my wonderful district. I know exactly what to expect from summer and students when teaching in September, so I usually try to plan accordingly and offer frequent water breaks to students. Nothing could prepare for the heat this time around though. Not only did I have to buy two fans out of pocket, but it was not enough! We aren't provided with an AC unit from our district or even allowed to bring one in at our own expense. All the students we serve deserve better. We deserve better working conditions, and deserve rooms that are properly ventilated, have enough seats/desks, and actually feel safe and comfortable to work in. Money should be allocated for this in all districts.” — **Central Islip**

“I'm on the top floor in my building, and the heat is oppressive. My room topped 90 degrees at 1 pm; my colleague two doors down recorded 86 degrees at 6:52 am. We have four fans running on high and the windows and door open. There is no AC. The effects are palpable. I've come home physically and emotionally drained each of the last three days. Something's got to give.” — **Clarkstown**

“My classroom has no windows. There is no fresh air coming through. I have 70 kids in my classroom at one time, and we are all extremely uncomfortable with the suffocating heat. It prevents me from doing activities necessary to my curriculum and prevents my students from receiving comprehensive instruction.”
— **Patchogue-Medford**

“Today my room was 95 degrees and yesterday it was 92. These are horrible working conditions and students aren't learning. We need help!” — **Central Islip**

“It's so hot I can't even breathe.” — **Yonkers**

“Coming in at 8 a.m. this morning, the thermometer in the classroom said 91 degrees. It only got hotter throughout the day. And we are lucky to be only on one floor. How can a child think or focus with temperatures that high? Students with asthma have been coughing all day.” — **Hamburg**

“This past week was probably one of the most uncomfortable of my career. Classroom temperatures in the mid 90s and high humidity made it difficult to be enthusiastic and excited for the first days of school. The students and I were perspiring while sitting still, so any movement made it almost unbearable. My windows are nearly impossible to open myself as they are large, heavy, and not working properly. When I finally got someone to assist me, it barely made a difference because there was no breeze. Children went home sick and those who remained were not able to focus on anything but the heat. In the hallway, there was some relief because of the lack of sunlight and the cool air spreading from the main office, but not much. I could not wait to get in the car at the end of the day and blast the air conditioner. My district does not allow window units in the classroom and only administration offices and the gymnasium have air conditioning. For the rest of us, it has been a grueling week in classrooms that had temperatures in the 90s. It felt inhumane to be expected to work under those conditions.” — **Central Islip**

“Sept. 6, 2023 is a professional development day. At 7:30 this morning my classroom temperature was 88 with 59 percent humidity. At 11:41 the temperature went down to 82. I do have two fans aimed at me ... tomorrow will be just as hot and humid and I will have 27 students so the classroom will be unbearable. I do have six windows but only five open a crack. The 6th window is broken and can't be opened.”
— **Yonkers**

“My classroom is one of the cooler rooms in the school. The thermometer read 92 degrees. I had a student get sick due to the heat.” — **Syracuse**

“In my school all the classroom teachers were given air

conditioners, but the art and music classrooms were not. These rooms are filled with children all day. They are also on the ground floor, so windows are not allowed to be open for security reasons. The rooms can get temperatures up to 90!" — **Scarsdale**

This past week has been brutal in the classroom for both students and staff. Our district is unable to provide air conditioning throughout the building and I can honestly say it has become painstaking for all of us. This past week even with windows open, lights off and fans blowing there was no relief. One side of our building had to be at least 10-20 degrees hotter! I had students laying their heads down at one point just wanting to take a nap. In addition to the oppressive heat, I am a brain tumor cancer survivor who benefits from a comfortable temperature working environment. Unfortunately, that was not the situation last week and will not be again this week ... (first two weeks of September). I pushed myself to perform at the best of my ability but found myself absolutely exhausted by the end of the day knowing that I needed to continue to be a mom of three and elderly caretaker when I got home after an oppressive long day at work." — **Central Islip**

"I teach in a classroom (with no) air-conditioning. In September and June my classroom frequently has temperatures approaching 90 to 92 degrees. It's impossible to get the students focused and motivated to learn when they are sweltering. There is fear all the time that a student is going to have a medical reaction to the oppressive heat. There is no reason why students shouldn't be made to learn in comfort and safety." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"My classroom is on the 3rd floor of our building. It is currently 91.7 degrees with windows open and the fans blowing." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"My classroom is in 80-90 during the heating season Once the temperature rises above 90 my classroom will remain hot. Students cannot learn under these conditions." — **Yonkers**

"83 degrees in the classroom to start the day, 86 degrees in the classroom by noon" — **East Ramapo**

"My classroom was 95 degrees during the first week of school." — **Lindenhurst**

"My classroom, on the third floor, reached 97 degrees on 9/6/23. That's with four fans circulating in my room." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"On the first day of school, a student on the second floor passed out from the heat." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"I am one out of only three social workers for over 2,700 students and my office, and the majority of the school has no A/C. This is a significant problem that can affect mood, physical problems, limitations and more. It is an unstable environment that can have serious impacts on

learning, health and focus. We had students and staff experience more heat related distress in the last 4 days than I have ever seen before. Student attendance to classes drops during the heat as well. Something must be done." — **Central Islip**

"My classroom has been about 90 degrees, give or take a couple degrees on either side this week. It is literally a wall of heat when you enter the room. The classroom is packed with 26 students and there is no space to move. No one is comfortable. There is no breeze. Everyone is sweating. These are unworkable conditions for teaching and learning." — **Amherst**

"These extremely hot temperatures were brutal! The students were feeling dizzy, nauseous, and with very little energy and focus." — **Central Islip**

"My classroom was 101 degrees!" — **Patchogue-Medford**

"My students and I are sweating the minute they walk into the classroom. The students are struggling to focus and are extremely exhausted. Many parents said their children went home and went right to sleep." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"In the past three days, one student threw up and went home because of the heat, only the first day. The second day two kids went to the nurse overheated and pale. I always try and provide a comfortable and safe environment in my class, I had to give water breaks and the heat would get so unbearable in the afternoon I would take the kids for a walk downstairs to 'cool off'. It was truly unbearable. My kids were laying on their desks to cool off. My poor kids. I was sweating nonstop to have them be comfortable. This is absolutely ridiculous especially because the environment affects a student's learning experience. I hope this is situated right away!" — **Central Islip**

"We have to close the blinds in the room for the first half of the day to get a slight bit of relief, but then we have a darker classroom with no view, and on humid days, which there are a lot of, we end up closing the windows completely. Students and staff have to suffer through conditions that few indoor workplaces in this country have to deal with, and those impacts learning immensely. Additionally, these conditions send the message that New York does not value education enough to invest in something that we know would improve the learning environment." — **Amherst**

"My room fluctuates between 55 and 95 degrees depending on the season and heating/cooling system." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"We have experienced unbearable heat for the first week of school. There were children who needed to go to the nurse because they felt like they were going to be sick and teachers who went to the nurse because they felt like they were going to pass out." — **Lindenhurst**

"It was 87 degrees in my classroom today. I should not have to say any more than that. It is torturous and inhumane to expect children and humans to function in a room of that temperature. Please do something." — **Oneida**

"My classroom gets sun most of the day. The only way to keep heat from becoming unbearable is to close the shades which then block air flow from the windows which open without screens from the second floor of my building. Today the outside temperature was 88 by 2 p.m. and my classroom was 84 with shades pulled and one fan going. The kids were sweating and lethargic because in order to keep the temperature down we had to keep the lights off. How are we expecting them to learn and retain information in those conditions? In addition to the heat in my classroom the rooms on my side of the building on the top floor were at least 10 degrees warmer. You can literally feel a wall of heat as you go upstairs. Which means those classrooms were well over 90 degrees by midday." — **Syracuse**

"I am a school psychologist in a high school. My office has been BEYOND unbearable these last few days. I had a student come to my office who was anxious. Typically, I do deep breathing exercises with my students who struggle with anxiety; however, that is very difficult to do in a 95-degree office where you can't breathe regularly ... forget DEEP breathing!" — **Clarkstown**

"It was over 95 degrees in my room. I was sweating standing still. There is no way learning can occur in that type of heat." — **Bayshore**

"Eighty-nine to ninety degrees. Students are unable to focus." — **Ossining**

"I do not have an air conditioner in my room and only have two small windows. During the spring and fall months the room often heats up to an uncomfortable level for students and me." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"My classroom is extremely hot and stuffy. I am in a courtyard, so I don't get a breeze when I open my windows. Everything is clammy to touch and it's very humid!" — **Longwood**

"My classroom is on the side of the building where the sun rises in the morning. When it's warm our classroom runs about 10 degrees warmer than the outside temperature." — **Syracuse**

"The first four days of school classroom temperatures were well over 90 degrees. Even with four fans running there was no relief. Several students left early due to chest pains, dizziness, and dehydration. Students were unable to concentrate due to extreme heat." — **Miller Place**

"My classroom is very stifling and humid. It is so hot that my floor becomes wet...creating a potentially dangerous situation for my students and myself. Today, many students closed their eyes and fell asleep during class because they

said they could not take the heat and humidity. Rooms reach more than 90 degrees." — **Monroe-Woodbury**

"In this recent heat wave, the copy room got so hot and humid that the copier stopped working. Students' devices also stopped functioning." — **Monroe-Woodbury**

"Today on the first day of school our classroom was at 85 degrees in the morning. By dismissal time the temp reached 89!" — **North Bellmore**

"I am a fourth-grade teacher. Our classroom is on the second floor. It is approximately 10 degrees hotter upstairs. My classroom hit 98 degrees and was consistently at 90 or above the whole week. It was difficult for my students to learn in this oppressive heat and humidity. I constantly was drinking water and I have a very active bladder, however last week I didn't go to the bathroom much because I was sweating it out all the time. On Saturday, I went to the doctor to get fluids and they could not get the needle into my vein because I was so dehydrated from the heat and humidity. I left the doctor's office bruised and hurting. The need for temperature control during these hot and humid times is great and it wouldn't be for much of the school year." — **Central Islip**

"Ridiculous heat in classrooms! This is 2023, A/C should be mandatory in all NYS public schools. A testament to feckless leadership at the state level. 9/5 - First Day of school - Temp 85. 9/6 - Temp 91.4. 9/7 - Temp 90.5. I have pictures of my thermometer to prove it. Thanks." — Half Hollow Hills

"The temperature in my room has gotten up to 93 degrees in the past and is consistently 83 to 86 degrees in September, May and June. There is air conditioning in the rooms that the administration deems necessary. But what about students? What about staff? My classroom just got gutted and renovated as part of our capital project. They let me design and request specific things I thought would be necessary. When I requested air conditioning, they refused to consider it. People aside, I have materials and projects that will literally melt when it's too hot. I learned that first year teaching when I had to throw out a whole grade level's artwork." — **East Irondequoit**

"I teach science and while doing a lab activity our room temperature water was 28 degrees. It should be 20 degrees!" — **Patchogue-Medford**

"Leaving school with a pounding headache even though I drank 64 oz of water each day. Feel sluggish and irritable throughout the day. Everything is stinky and sweaty. Even though there are heat alerts for outside, just the amount of bodies in the school raises the temperature; I think it's hotter inside the building and now we can't even go outside to at least get a breeze. I work on the second floor and there is no moving air and no way to get relief." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"I am an elementary general music teacher (grades 3-5). The heat in my classroom the past few days has been overwhelming. On a typical day, I see seven different classes in my room. The stagnant air and intense heat offer a breeding ground for bacteria, especially with the high volume of students. We partake in movement activities and the extreme heat has been exhausting the students to the point some of them needed to lay down after the activity."

— **Bay Shore**

"We reached 98 degrees on September, 9/8/23. Not only isn't this healthy for students or staff, but it is a waste of time and resources. We speak of global warming and climate change yet do nothing about making our environment more conducive to learning. I would estimate we 'waste' four weeks out of a school year due to hot temperatures, in addition to summer school programs that are too hot to work efficiently. Ergo, if you want to increase test scores, make our buildings climate controlled to recoup these weeks/months."

— **Central Islip**

"I teach on the second floor of a beautiful, old school. I do not have air conditioning in my classroom. My classroom reached 90 degrees today with high humidity. The kids had red faces and became tired by afternoon. We have cooling spaces in the building which I did visit."

— **North Bellmore**

"A room without windows and no moving air. The temperature is uncomfortably hot, and it feels suffocating."

— **North Tonawanda**

"It has been over 84 degrees in my classroom twice in the past week. I have picture proof of a digital thermometer."

— **South Seneca**

"It's inhumane. We are on the second floor with southern exposure from the field. Temperature reached 102 indoors. It is very uncomfortable and inhumane. It's hard to believe we still don't have air conditioners in all classrooms in 2023!"

— **Northport East Northport**

"I teach kindergarten and my room was so hot you could see the sweat marks down the backs of some of the children. A few times this week, when I stood up from a seated position or even when I bent down to pick something up, once I stood, I saw stars and could have passed out. We took things easy, drank a lot of water but it's scary to feel that way."

— **Central Islip**

"My school/district has also made no changes to account for this heat wave. They still had our 4th and 5th graders go on a walking trip today instead of canceling or rescheduling it putting our students and teachers at risk for heat-related illnesses. All students were still made to go outside for recess as well. It is unacceptable to subject us to these conditions and in the least, they should be required to either provide some air-conditioned spaces where we can

take students for part of the day or call a half day. Our kindergartners were completely worn out despite our best efforts to keep them cool under the circumstances and many students needed to go to the nurse after recess. Others cried towards the end of the day. All in all, it was brutal."

— **Bedford**

"My classroom was extremely hot today. The thermometer reading was 85."

— **Susquehanna Valley**

"I teach in three separate classrooms, each hotter than the last. I am prone to excessive sweating and have gone through four shirts over the first two days of class. Students are sweltering in all my classes, and I yell in one room so students can hear me over fans blasting at full speed."

— **Northport East Northport**

"My classroom does not ventilate properly even when windows are open. With a heat index today of 90 degrees outside, the inside of my classroom is well over that temperature. I had to move my students today to a different classroom that has air conditioning in the building just so they'd be safe and not over-heated."

— **Rush-Henrietta**

"It was so hot that students were telling me they could not think."

— **Middle Country**

"The classrooms and hallways at our school are exceedingly hot. We do not have air conditioning, and teachers are unable to teach to their full potential. Likewise, students are able to learn, focus, and process to their potential. People are using portable fans, moist rags to put around their necks, and still sweating profusely. It is a health hazard. Getting air conditioning should be one of the primary focuses for our staff and students to be able to function normally at school. It personally impacts my performance, and many people feel like they need to be seated at certain times, so they don't feel faint or like they are going to pass out. It's scary for everyone, it's dangerous, and it's extremely uncomfortable and unhealthy."

— **Central Islip**

"I am reaching out on behalf of my colleagues. I happen to have A/C in my classroom — one of my parents a few years ago requested it for her child. I have been grateful to that parent for a few years now. I am fighting cancer and if I didn't have the A/C, I don't think I could be teaching right now."

— **North Bellmore**

"Ninety-five degrees in the classroom. Students and I are lethargic. Students with sweat dripping on their papers. Myself, wearing glasses, could not see most of the day. We kept hydrated, which did not help. Students felt ill and were sent to the nurse and went home. It was impossible to teach and for the students to learn under these horrible conditions."

— **Northport East Northport**

"My classroom is so hot currently that I feel like I can't breathe and I'm going to pass out. This is a normal thing that happens at the end of May/early June and in September/October as well. My students have a hard time keeping their heads up because of the heat. They can't focus and often won't participate because they are too run down from the temperature in the room. No amount of open windows or fans blowing does a thing." — **Brockport**

"My classroom was almost 100 degrees this week! Children were nauseous, had headaches, and crying, and it made our first days together miserable. The children couldn't go outside due to the heat advisory, but it was hotter in the classroom than it was outside. These high temperatures are unhealthy and unacceptable for students and teachers."
— **Northport East Northport**

"The temperatures in our classroom are completely inhumane. This past week starting school, thermometers were recording temperatures in our buildings, with fans and windows open, from 94 degrees to 99 degrees. The cafeteria hit 106 because of cooking hot lunches ... How can working long hours in such circumstances be acceptable?"
— **Lindenhurst**

"With no air conditioning my classroom is extremely hot. Needing to unpack boxes to set up and prepare to have students in my room has been extremely difficult. I have sweat dripping on my entire body all day soaking my clothing and needing to take frequent breaks to stay hydrated. Focusing on learning or accomplishing my planning and reading paperwork is extremely difficult and many students have been having headaches and stomachaches, even being sent home. Even with my windows open and fans on it is overwhelming. A co-worker with health problems asked me to help walk her students to the buses because she almost passed out in the hallway from the heat." — **Central Islip**

"The classrooms on the inside ring are unbearable. Worse is the lunchroom where all students are subjected to extreme heat. Complaints have gone unanswered. I am retired but conditions remain." — **Lackawanna**

"The classroom was above 90 degrees and I felt dizzy. I saw one kid in the hall who could not walk. The muscles in her legs were not working from dehydration. The kindergarten kids were pouring sweat with red faces. Students with asthma were suffering the most. I felt sick when I got home. Kids were let out on the playground and told not to run. They were coming into the nurse's office with red faces and pouring sweat. It was dangerous." — **Lindenhurst**

"Internal building temperatures reached uncharted territories over the past couple of days. Staff have brought as many fans as possible from their homes to at least move air around their rooms. Any and all outside activities on a turf field aka 'Easy Bake Oven' have been limited or cancelled all together due to triple digits temps recorded

on the field space. With climate change this is the new normal. Many of our schools, government buildings, etc. in the Northeast are old & outdated with no talk of updating HVAC to meet the challenges of a new reality." — **Amherst**

"I am a K-5 music teacher. This past week, my classroom reached over 100 degrees ... I had to completely scrap my original teaching plans because they included movement and dance. I love to teach, and I'm concerned for the safety of my students. They should not have to learn in weather that reaches over 80 degrees. It is so painful, and they are unable to focus and truly retain any of the learning material." — **Lindenhurst**

"On the first day of school it was around 90 degrees I was drenched in sweat all day, uncomfortable, felt like I was going to pass out all day. My students were uncomfortable and just kept repeating all day that they were too hot. There were so many nose bleeds because of the heat. It was not a fun day. We could not even do any work because we were all sticky and felt like we were in a sauna all day. Please help us get A/C!" — **Patchogue-Medford**

"My classroom was so unbearably hot last week for the first three days of school. Frequent water breaks were not enough. I had kids complaining of stomachaches and headaches from the heat. Just sitting and reading a story together left us all dripping with sweat. No one should have to endure these conditions for 7 hours a day. It is definitely not an environment that is conducive to learning by any means." — **Lindenhurst**

"It is too hot to teach in an 80-degree kindergarten classroom." — Longwood

"September and June can be unbearably hot. It is 90 in my classroom today. Our room gets the morning sun, heats it up and holds the heat. These conditions are difficult for adults and students alike. Everything sticks to the floor. Summer school will be difficult. Good working conditions make for good learning." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"This afternoon our classroom temperature was 90.7 with fans blowing and shades pulled to block the light. First graders who are tired and overheated. Everyone was sweating, needed frequent water breaks. Adults and students extremely uncomfortable all day."
— **Patchogue-Medford**

"My classroom hit 107 degrees this afternoon. I had the windows open, a fan running, lights off, and the shades pulled as low as I could. I had students falling asleep and obviously had a difficult time keeping their attention. This was our first day of school!" — Patchogue-Medford

"First two days of school were unbearable with temps reaching above 80 in my classroom. Students seemed uncomfortable and complained of nausea and didn't feel well. I at least was able to get some relief in our teacher

lunchroom, which had A/C. Second day I kept my windows closed after a certain time due to sun movement. Closed windows kept cooler than outside." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"While I work as the school nurse in an office that does have A/C, I end up flooded with kids who are overheated and suffering from light headedness, heat rashes, and upset stomachs when their classrooms and learning spaces get hot. I have a number of students with chronic skin conditions that are made worse as the temps rise. These kids deserve to focus on learning and fun, not the discomfort that comes along with the heat."
— **Coxsackie-Athens**

"My classroom is on the third floor of the building and has no air conditioning. This heat is not allowing me to focus on the work I need to do but rather hoping I don't overheat or pass out. I am scared as I am high up so getting to any health office takes time. Our windows do not have screens, so bugs come into our space as well."
— **Patchogue-Medford**

"On September 6, my classroom was 90 degrees. My 3rd grade students were asking when we were going home because it was so hot." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"Kids are in classrooms that are 97 degrees and I'm a one-story building." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"It is very hot in the office. The two air conditioners in the main office are now broken and are not being replaced. The office is shared with six people. We have computers and a copy machine that add extra heat. Window fans do not fit in the windows as windows only open 6 inches. We do not have enough outlets to run fans. I can't believe we are working under these conditions." — **New York City**

"I have downloaded the thermometer app in my room. At 7:45 a.m. it said 82 degrees feels like 85 degrees. At 11:15 a.m. it says 87 degrees feels like 97 degrees. Unbearable. The kids are literally falling asleep..." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"I am a Special Education teacher who works in 3 different classrooms throughout the day. Each room is brutally hot. The students are uncomfortable and sweating profusely. During lunch duty we were asked to go to the auditorium to provide relief. My colleagues and I are complaining of headaches and discomfort." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"Windows and door open with fans going. The temperature in my room is 86 today!" — **Patchogue-Medford**

"My room is 87 degrees and extremely hot and humid. There is no cross ventilation." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"Today (9/7/23) my classroom at 12:44 p.m. read 89 degrees. I have a photo of a thermometer. Kids were exhausted, hot and lethargic. Students and staff should not have to work in such extreme conditions." — **Peru**

"My classroom was well over 80 degrees for the first three days of school. I had students with headaches and a stomachache. This is the beginning of year 22 for me and last week was the most unbearable. A student was sent home from the heat." — **Lindenhurst**

"First day of school, our classroom was between 86 and 92 degrees with 63 percent humidity! It was never below 82 the rest of the week!" — **North Tonawanda**

"Unbelievably hot! Eighty-six degrees in my classroom yesterday." — **Owego-Apalachin**

"The classroom temperature in my room has been increasingly warmer the last two years. Sometimes the thermostat reads upwards of 83 degrees. When I've called the janitors, they tell me as long as it's cooler than outdoors there's nothing they can do. So, my students and I all suffer being incredibly warm and agitated." — **New York City**

"Ninety degrees on the second floor of our three-floor building. It's difficult to even think by the afternoon when you have been sweating the entire day in a hot room."
— **Long Beach**

Without air conditioning, thousands of classrooms become saunas, and our students are suffering the consequences.

"My room faces south on the top floor and is baked in the sun all day. Our windows need to be closed after school, so the classroom starts the next day already over 80 after hot days. With windows and fans going the room is hotter than the outside temperature." — **Valley Central**

"My classroom is so hot the students are unable to focus on anything else but fanning themselves and constantly remarking on the unbearable temperature." — **Utica**

"I am in the 4th and 5th grade wing. Second floor near a roof. The window opens to the roof so the air coming in when we have the window open is hotter than inside, so we often have it closed. Now it is 80+ degrees outside and the inside ranges from 75-87 degrees now. This makes it so hard to teach and even more of a challenge for these 27 kids to get any work done or learning. Kids are falling asleep in class and are very lethargic. This is not the ideal temperature for a safe and healthy environment for teaching and learning." — **Syracuse**

"My classroom is on the second floor and faces the baseball field. You would think that there would be a good amount of air flowing, however, there isn't any, especially on hot days like we have been having. It is unbearable for myself and for my students. My students cannot focus, and it is scary to the point that most of my colleagues and I are worried that someone will pass out!"
— **Valley Central**

"My classroom is on the 2nd floor of a middle school and the temperature gets up to about 95 degrees or higher on most hot days. It's unbearable!!!!" — **West Islip**

"The first two days of school the temperatures were unbearable in the classrooms. We had kids complaining about not feeling well and needing to visit the nurse due to being overheated. The only place to receive any sort of comfort and coolness were the air-conditioned offices. This is no different than needing heat in the cold temperatures of winter." — **Peru**

"My classroom sits on the black driveway with the sun shining in the afternoon. For the past week, we have had to not only close the shades and dim the lights but have also had to close the windows! It was so unbearable; I went home nauseous yesterday and today. Wearing the mask is making things worse, as oxygen is limited. The temperature read 85 Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, however it felt much warmer due to the humidity. I'd say real feel was way into the mid-upper 90s." — **Hendrick Hudson**

"Our classroom reached a daily temperature of up to 104 degrees F. In all my years teaching here, it has never been this HOT! We literally couldn't move or function. Several times throughout the day, I was very dizzy, and the children were very lethargic. Please understand that these are inhumane working conditions, and the students and staff deserve better." — **Central Islip**

"I work in a co-teach third-grade classroom and today it is 90 degrees in our classroom. The students are complaining of a headache, stomachache, and some are even in tears due to the extreme heat. It is not okay to ask our children or teachers to remain in this type of heat." — **Lansingburgh**

"Our classroom has two fans and windows. We keep them open and have fans going all day. By lunch our room is 85 degrees and by dismissal we reach 88 degrees. Kids are red cheeked and exhausted by the end of the day." — **Baldwinsville**

"Today was an in-service day. There were no students in our classroom and the temperature got up to 94 with a humidity level of 67 percent. Sweat drying cools you down, but with that temperature and humidity, there was no hope of the sweat drying. We start the day by opening the windows the minute we get in, around 7:15. We run three fans in the windows and one in the front of the room, and yet we still get these numbers." — **Hamburg**

"The excessive heat last week was a worse distraction to learning than a cell phone. While the cell phones can be put away, the heat was relentless. Students requested to leave the room and refill water bottles again and again. They also fidgeted in their seats and asked to sit by the window instead. We had an oscillating fan facing them and it wasn't enough. Most kids were unable to focus and expressed it." — **Central Islip**

"As a high school math teacher, getting students to be active learners is a tough enough job, but having to deal with the heat index at the start and end of the year makes it near impossible. I teach on the east side of the building on the third floor. My room bakes all morning and never cools down, because when we leave, we must close all the windows. My room is easily in the mid 80s in May and gets to the mid 90s in June. This, of course, is just the temperature and does not factor in humidity. This is an environment that is not conducive to learning. This is the norm for September into October and for May through the end of the year, not just a couple of days here and there. Thank you NYSUT for taking on this cause and please consider heat index, not just temperature. Everyone knows that 85 and humid is much worse than 90 and dry."

— **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"I am on the second floor with five fans and still teaching with a tissue in my hand to wipe off my sweat as I spoke. Students have no ability to concentrate in this heat. It's disgusting and unhealthy." — **Central Islip**

"There were a few times this week where I thought I was going to pass out. I have never been so hot. It was hard to breathe. I have had a severe headache each day by the time I went home. I thought about taking a half day at one point, but I knew it wasn't fair to the students who came in. But then again, the heat in the building wasn't fair to them either!" — **Central Islip**

"My students were feeling lethargic and complaining that it is too hot in school. A few students were stating that they did not feel well and needed to splash water on their faces and bodies. Students were not able to learn, and I found it extremely difficult to teach. No one should be working in these conditions, and it is borderline abuse to the employees and the children to attend school in these conditions." — **Central Islip**

"My classroom has been 98 degrees since Tuesday. I do not have an air conditioner. We are 30 air conditioners short for students that require them in their IEPs." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"I currently have 22 students in my classroom, and I do not have air conditioning. My classroom is on the east side of the building, so we get the morning sun. It does not begin to cool off until 4:00 pm. Students are released at 3:20 p.m. The classroom doors are staggered so there is no cross ventilation from classroom to classroom. We have blinds that we can bring down to block the sunlight, but when doing so, it blocks the air from coming into the room. My students become very lethargic, and it is extremely difficult for them to learn in this environment." — **Lindenhurst**

"I teach fourth grade on the third floor of our building. Our first day of school was on 9/6, and during that week, both Wednesday and Thursday reached a high temperature of over 90 degrees. I have a thermometer in my room, and it reads 88 degrees. My students were extremely drained and tired coming back to the classroom." — **Central Islip**

"My classroom is extremely hot. On average, it is above 85 degrees within the classroom. The students struggle to feel comfortable. They become lethargic and unfocused. It is hard to breathe comfortably with the heat." — **Longwood**

"I have been teaching for 30 years and these days are the worst I can recall. The children were unable to concentrate. They were not able to participate in activities with any enthusiasm. It was upsetting to see them in this situation. Many of them complained of headaches and nausea. If my students are going to be forced to attend schools on these extremely hot days, air conditioning needs to be installed. This situation should be rectified so that it never happens again." — **Lindenhurst**

"The temperatures that we are forced to work in are completely unbearable and unacceptable. Yesterday the thermometer in my classroom was up to 90 degrees. A student in a nearby district passed out due to the heat. No one can learn, or teach, in this toxic environment. Staff are bringing in extra clothes to change into for when their first outfit becomes wet with sweat. It is deplorable."

— **Hamburg**

"Air-conditioned classrooms really make a difference and we should all have it. I know it's costly, but it really would contribute to everyone's wellbeing and to having an amazing transition back to school without the struggles we faced this week with our students. It was so difficult to even breathe, to move, to show the most energized and happy version of us in the classrooms. We are all champions for having survived this awful heat, I told my students. The struggle was real for all this first week together! Can't wait for cooler weather." — **Central Islip**

"My students were suffering. One of my students was medically fragile and had to keep a wastepaper basket next to her desk because she was throwing up when she became overwhelmed with the heat. Kids would fall asleep and beg for ice cubes from the nurse. No one can learn this way. They can barely stay awake."

— **Brentwood**

"This first week of school has been almost unbearable because of the heat within my classroom. The students could barely function, and a few passed out on the desks. Trying to lecture for eight hours in this heat is torture. This is unacceptable and dangerous for so many students but especially people with conditions such as asthma."

— **Central Islip**

"Elementary classroom temperatures exceeded 90 degrees for the first three days of school. Despite sweating profusely, many of us experience headaches, light headedness, blurry vision, and overall discomfort. Students were in the nurse's office getting sick and being asked to get picked up by their parents." — **Lindenhurst**

"Last week with outside temperatures reaching into the 90s, our school building was 100 degrees ... The students were crying, which is so sad because we want them to feel comfortable and safe when they come to school. Temperatures this high are unacceptable." — **Lindenhurst**

"Here at the HS, the 2nd floor in general was hotter in relation to the rest of the building. The air quality in my classroom was stifling. I had a student pass out midday, another suffered from disorientation." — **Lansingburgh**

"My classroom is located upstairs in the school building. It gets extremely hot with temperatures clocking in at 80 degrees or above. As someone who has gone through two pregnancies working in the school building, I can tell you that there were days in which I had to relocate my students into a computer lab for cooler temperatures. With laptops being distributed to all students now, the breaks we used to have in a computer lab are now long gone as we have said goodbye to that space, which has been repurposed without air conditioning. Additionally, there have been days that I have taken off from work and used my own sick bank to do so to keep myself safe and comfortable when I should have been able to work. However, the fear of overheating and exhaustion prevented me from doing so when I was pregnant on more than one occasion. Pregnant or not, the temperatures that the school building reaches are unhealthy and do not facilitate a proper learning environment. Imagine sitting in a sauna and being told to learn a new skill, read, write, etc. It becomes physically exhausting. Please help!" — **Central Islip**

"The first day back to school was Wednesday, and the projected forecast was 90 degrees. Inside my classroom with lights off and blinds closed, the temperature reached 92.1 degrees. Students and teacher were beyond lethargic. Due to extreme heat, all activities were canceled, including recess, so students were forced to sit in the stagnant heat within the classroom. History repeated itself the next day, only this time, classroom temperature reached 95.4 degrees." — **Lindenhurst**

"It is way too hot for kids to be in classrooms when the temperature is 85 degrees plus, and humid. They are fatigued, dehydrated, and physically/mentally cannot pay attention. Something needs to change. Our students are suffering." — **Lansingburgh**

"I am in a classroom with 27 to 29 students with no air conditioning. The temperature in my classroom reaches well in the 90s on these hot days. Both the students and I are barely able to concentrate. Students are asking for water, and we have a very difficult time trying to keep the focus on learning." — **Lindenhurst**

"Our school building was unbearable the first week for children and staff. The rooms were over 90 degrees for 3 days straight. Kids were not allowed to go outside or do any physical activities due to the extreme heat alert, so they just sat and roasted all day. Personally, I felt exhausted and drained after enduring the temperatures and humidity in the building. There was no way to escape the heat so you just sweat so much you cannot drink enough water. Many students, staff and teachers reported feeling ill. Not as much learning was going on as usual because of the oppressive heat. Teachers had many fans going and brought coolers for the students to have cold drinks or ice pops to cool off, but none of this changed the unhealthy temperature in the school." — **Central Islip**

"I teach in Miller Place. I have been in all four buildings during my career. I am currently in the high school. The classrooms were well over 82 degrees, and that was not even in areas where the sun bakes in the windows. With doors closed for added security and a little breeze from open windows, the conditions are horrible. The only classrooms with A/C are those few designated for students with an IEP or 504 requirements. Those students are often grouped together, and classes/teachers are shifted to hold classes in those few rooms. A bond issue was passed, post-COVID, when the community became concerned about masks making kids too hot. In the spring of 2023, one building had split units installed in each classroom. The units were not operational for the end-of-the-year heat. They said they would be operational when we returned this year — to date they are not ... I was once in a classroom all day that had A/C, and the difference in the students was visible. My co-teacher and I did not become ill daily from the heat." — **Middle Country**

"My classroom was so hot that we had to keep the lights off. I bought and brought in 3 fans. I was so hot that both my assistant and I were nauseous and unable to eat food. At one point, my assistant had to wrap wet rags around her neck because she was afraid she would either vomit or pass out. I had to constantly take water breaks to keep my students hydrated. I also could not do as much work with my students because they needed breaks due to the heat. On top of all of this, the humidity on Friday caused my asthma to act up. The children and adults should not have to be subjected to this heat!" — **Central Islip**

"Ninety-six degrees in my room today ... only air circulation is fans I purchased myself. Oh, I'm also 32 weeks pregnant ... Horrible conditions." — **Crown Point**

"In at least half of my classes — both upstairs and downstairs — the rooms are way too hot both in summer and winter. It gets to the point where I feel lightheaded, weak, and sick. All the teacher says is 'I can't control the temperature.' I have dealt with this for my entire educational career, and I'm sick of it. It needs to stop."

— **Montgomery County**

"The temperatures in the classrooms have to be over 90 degrees. Several students at the high school passed out due to heat exhaustion and had to be taken away by ambulance." — **Lindenhurst**

"It was 94 degrees in my classroom today. I ended up coming home with an excruciating headache and threw up. I can't believe we are meant to teach like this. Our poor students and staff." — **Mount Pleasant**

"It was 93 degrees in my 1st grade classroom today! Unbearable." — **North Bellmore**

"My classroom is on the second floor and during the hot months, the room can get to 100 degrees. September 6-8 was oppressive and unbearable for my students and I. Kids cannot learn when they are in tears because it is so hot. Lessons come second when the heat is so atrocious because we're concerned with everyone's safety first!"

— **Lindenhurst**

"I don't know the exact temperature, but I am 100 percent sure it was over 100 degrees on September 6 and 7. We don't even have fans. I tried using the air purifier to cool students off. The water was running down my entire body for three days. Completely unhealthy and not conducive to learning. Poor kids!!" — **Northport East Northport**

"My room is on the south side of my building. It gets full sun throughout the day. Even with the shades closed, my room was well over 100. Students, including myself, were lighted headed and had heat stroke symptoms. Opening a window did not help as it allowed more hot air into the room. Even with our universal system, there was minimal air flow." — **Central Islip**

"First day of school my, second floor, classroom was well over 85 degrees with no air movement. On the second day my classroom was above 85 degrees before 10am and reached 90 degrees by 3 pm! For over 40 minutes my students sat in 90 degrees heat and that did not include the heat index which was making it feel almost 94 degrees. Yesterday, the third day, my classroom remained in the mid-80s with a heat index near 90 degrees after working for 9 hours in this heat. I had approximately 45 minutes of a break from the heat to come back for Open House for an additional 2 hours. Can't seem to get hydrated. I can't drink too much water while I am teaching as I got 3 classes in a row, so I forsake hydration. By the second half of my day, every day this week, I was struggling to focus and instruct

my students as I could not form thoughts properly. I was having difficulty remembering what had been said and what had not been said. Today, my class was still 80 degrees when I arrived at 7:50 am with the window left open overnight and the fans on."

— **Clarence**

"Coming into the classroom at 8:30 a.m., our temp was at 86 degrees, with fans circulating. At 9:45, our temp is now 87.6 and children are unsettled."

— **North Syracuse**

"I walked into my homeroom and saw the temperature was 88 degrees. I was trying to get everything set for the first day of classes, so I stayed. Later, I saw that the temp had risen to 90 degrees. I felt nauseous." — **Nyack**

"Please keep in mind that an outside temp that feels nice walking, can feel brutal indoors, crammed in with 34 others in a room meant for far fewer, and where there's minimal airflow, and where the sun pounds us ... Some rooms are more like a greenhouse in the afternoon, where we sweat without moving, whereas when we step outside to walk home it's lovely." — **New York City**

"I have a classroom that gets the full glory of sunshine from the early morning until midafternoon. There is no air conditioning in our classrooms, so the temperature, even with multiple personal fans going and windows wide open, gets to temps as high as 85 degrees or more. That was my classroom today (one day before the kids start their first day tomorrow). Now, I'm sure you can imagine how unbearably hot it will be tomorrow when I have anywhere from 21-26 middle school students in there! The temperature some days is so stifling, it's nearly impossible for kids to focus on the simplest of tasks, let alone trying to learn the curriculum (or even care about learning it). We have air conditioners in the hallway, but they don't really reach our classrooms. So, unless I'm teaching in the hallway, it's pointless. No one truly seems to understand or frankly cares about how much this impacts student progress and teacher effectiveness."

— **Hamburg**

"My classroom was 85 degrees all week. One of my students went home and vomited. The doctor said he had heat exhaustion. Another student went home and almost passed out. Her doctor also said heat exhaustion. The heat/humidity was unbearable this week. I've never been more



Another blistering day in the classroom.

EL-WISE NOISETTE

uncomfortable in my two decades of teaching, not even during masks! I went home with a pounding headache each day." — **Lindenhurst**

"When the temperature outside rises to 80+ Fahrenheit, especially when the humidity is high, our classrooms become oppressively hot. For those of us who are on the inner section of the school, there is no cross breeze, and our students cannot pay attention when they are overheated." — **Amherst**

"On the first day of school my classroom was over 90 degrees. One of my students asked to get a drink of water, stood up, and then passed out cold. He completely dropped to the floor." — **Northport East Northport**

"It hit 96 degrees in my classroom last week. We had six of our high school students leave school due to heat-related health issues, two of them in an ambulance." — **Lindenhurst**

"Last week, the first week of school, the temperature in my 4th grade classroom was 95 degrees...I was so hot, at times I felt like I was going to pass out. One of my students even threw up in the classroom." — **Lindenhurst**

"My room was 93 degrees today. It was so hot I started to feel ill. My students were miserable instead of excited on the first day of school." — **North Bellmore**

"Ninety-five degrees on the second floor and 90 percent humidity with no air flow of any kind is not a learning environment." — **Lindenhurst**

"It has been a living hell! Literally! The heat this week has been so intense. Kids are falling asleep because it's so hot. Children are throwing up. Special ed students are just lying on the rug because they can't take it anymore."
— **Lyncort**

The temperature reached 98 degrees by 11 a.m. yesterday ... Just sitting at my desk, beads of sweat rolled down my face and neck. I am an animated, dynamic teacher who loves to actively move to hold my students' attention. My students did not receive the full benefit of my teaching skills because I felt so physically ill. Students and staff felt sick. It is impossible to ask children to attend to tasks and absorb new information when their environment is not conducive to learning." — **Middle Country**

"My digital thermometer read 94 degrees at the highest — this with blinds closed and lights off ... By 10 a.m., my students look as if they have just run a mile, with sweat dripping down their face and hair lines wet. This is my 29th year teaching and it was the worst I've ever had ... The heat was inhumane." — **Northport East Northport**

"Two weeks ago, two girls came to me saying their teacher had collapsed to the ground. Ends up she had heat stroke. Yesterday, a student fell out of his desk unconscious. He had heat stroke. During this hot streak, my classroom has been 84-86 degrees. Kids complain they can't concentrate and have low productivity. The killer is that some classrooms have air conditioning and are freezing!"
— **Owego-Apalachin**

"Classroom is 89 degrees today. It was 87 yesterday. The air is thick, hard to breathe in." — **Lansingburgh**

"I am on the third floor of an old school. I have five fans in my classroom, however according to the thermostat it is still 96 degrees as of 11am. I have two classes after lunch, and I don't know how the students are going to be able to focus. We are extremely hot and tired."
— **Lawrence**

"My students were very fatigued from the heat, and some said they felt nauseous from it. It was pretty awful on the second floor." — **Lindenhurst**

"Most classrooms in our district do not have AC or fans. Students and teachers are struggling during the hot days. AC should be in all classrooms in all buildings for safety and comfort." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"Simply put, how can we expect students to learn when the classroom temperature is above 80, let alone the 90-degree temperature the thermostat in my classroom is reading today? Education has made a major pivot in the right direction over the past decade towards focusing on what really matters. However, the fact that we are still having a discussion about heat in the classroom shows how incredibly slow, reactive and unintelligible our education system is over such a simple matter is easily solved by common sense." — **Lansingburgh**

"I have one of the few rooms with no air conditioning and the kids stare blankly at me because the heat is so pervasive, even with all the windows open." — **Manhasset**

"I work in special education for young students and the heat has been terrible. There is no A/C in my classroom or in the school I work in. Students can hardly keep their heads up. Instead, they are constantly lying on the desk due to the heat. Constant water breaks throughout the day take away from academic times. Sweat dripping down our faces when we're just sitting there talking is ridiculous. It is a new mean to have adults and children working in high heat temperatures with no air conditioners." — **Middle Country**

"First few days of school classroom temperatures reached close to 100 degrees. These temperatures severely impact the amount of learning in the classroom. I would consider it dangerous without A/C in the rooms."

— **Patchogue-Medford**

"This week, temperatures ranged from 82-88 degrees in my classroom. Absolutely unbearable for anyone, regardless of age. I have three personal fans that move the air around but do not provide relief. Several of my students have heat-induced asthma. They were sent to the nurse and picked up by a parent. No teaching can be accomplished when the heat and humidity is this high." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"The temperature in my room today was 95 degrees at the end of the day when the temperature was checked. I believe that it may have been hotter in the afternoon when the sun was beating down through the windows. I had four fans on high all day long, which was no help. I opened all the windows, but because the windows do not have screens on them, bugs/bees were flying in the classroom."
— **Patchogue-Medford**

"I work on the third floor of a historic school building. As temperatures reach above 85, my room is unbearable. This week (and last spring), temperatures outside reached 90+ degrees. This meant my room was 95-100 degrees. Learning, teaching, and functioning in these conditions are near impossible."
— **Peru**

"For the past two days (day 1 and day 2) of this 2023-2024 school year, I am working in temperatures of 92 degrees and going home feeling sick with a really bad headache."
— **Lansingburgh**

"My classroom has been over 90 degrees for the past three days. The kids are completely unable to function."
— **Lansingburgh**

"I am located on the second floor. In my wing the temperature is unbearable even with two fans blowing. I have become so hot that I have felt dizzy and nauseous. Other teachers who are on the first floor do not experience this issue." — **Rush-Henrietta**

"I work in a second-grade class as a teacher aide. It's unbearably hot! The kids are complaining that it is too hot most of the day, and they are constantly asking to fill up their water bottles, which is totally understandable. The teacher and I have sweat dripping down our backs, and we are experiencing heat headaches everyday so far. It's not right to have these kids trying to learn and expected to do work under these conditions. We need air conditioning!"

— **Middle Country**

"I am a school nurse. The classrooms are saunas. I had a teacher bring me melted crayons because her room was 90 degrees. I had another teacher pass out from heat exhaustion. The children are complaining of nausea and having trouble concentrating in class." — **Middle Country**

"My old classroom has reached over 100 degrees. My current classroom was 90 today!!" — **Mount Vernon**

"As we have no air conditioning it is 90+ degrees in the classroom. It is unbearable for students and teachers alike. There is no learning because students cannot focus. It is unsafe." — **Greece**

"My classroom hit 86 degrees today.... I am on the second floor and my windows open to an enclosed courtyard, so I do not get a breeze. The classrooms on the first floor were 10 degrees cooler. It is hard to think or do anything in conditions like this!" — Niagara-Wheatfield

"I have been teaching chemistry in the same classroom for 15 yrs. Every year, in the beginning of school and later in May and June my classroom runs between 84 and 88 degrees. It can soar up to 90 plus degrees in the afternoon. My classroom is in the science loft on the second floor above the pool/locker rooms. The smell of chlorine is particularly pungent as well. It is hard to open windows — I can't hear students because of the condenser unit outside my window for the A/C for the rest of the school. All the science rooms are this way!!" — **Northeastern Clinton**

"Yesterday my classroom reached 92 degrees. Today the classroom thermometer reached 96. Students and teachers cannot function in these unsafe and inhumane conditions. This is child abuse. The district has also stopped allowing air conditioning window units even if you have provided a Dr note." — **Central Islip**

School cafeterias, libraries and gymnasiums are also sweltering.

"Our classrooms do not have air neither do the cafeteria and gym. It is extremely stifling. The heat took my breath away several times and made me nauseous. Children in the cafeteria were crying they were so hot and wanted to go home." — **Depew**

"The past two days our gym had to be over 100. Half the windows do not open and there is no ventilation to speak of. 150 students produce a lot of body heat and made the gym hotter than the hallways. It is unhealthy and time for schools to keep our students cool and safe. Admins sit in their cold offices while the teachers and students sweat. Some rooms have A/C, and some do not. We all deserve a safe work environment. Fall temps have risen every year of my career!" — **East Meadow**

"I teach in the gym we have no ventilation no fans provided the students and us we're just dripping there's no relief all the water fountains you must have a bottle for so if these kids don't come with a bottle, they can't refill their water or get water." — **Brentwood**

"My classroom, the gym, was unbearable! Speaking to students about class procedures was impossible. I felt tired and weak by the middle of the day. It is unfair for adults and students to work in unbearable temperatures! No other job would require or expect this." — **Lindenhurst**

"My beautiful art classroom was once a cafeteria. This cafeteria had one full wall of windows that were large sliding windows facing the sun. So, after a district renovation in 1998, this room was transformed into an art room. Wall of windows replaced with large windows that do not slide open anymore but small bottom windows that push out. When temps soar, window blinds do not cut the greenhouse effect. Temps reach 90+ degrees, crayons melt, paper curls, everything feels damp. 4-5 fans in the room do nothing to circulate the air. Anyone who walks into the room complains how hot it is in there. Elementary buildings do not have A/C in this district in classrooms but do in offices and nurses offices. Our middle and high schools are fully A/C. A very unfair working environment during the warm months." — **East Greenbush**

"I am writing to you on behalf of our school cafeteria workers. It's so inhumane to have the school workers ladies serving lunches, preparing lunches, in an overheated kitchen. The temperature average is over 100 degrees. This kitchen does not have air conditioning, windows or special equipment fans to pull out the heat! They work in the most inhumane environment, not to mention in general the whole cafeteria where students sit down to eat lunches. Help!!!!!" — **Syracuse**

"I teach middle school physical education in a district outside of Buffalo. Our building is a 5-8 and there isn't air conditioning in any of the classrooms or the gymnasium like some schools have. Imagine running around on 90 some degree day, in the gym (we have no windows either and can no longer prop the doors open to get a nice cross-breeze because of what happened in Uvalde.) We have several female Muslim students who MUST cover their entire body or do not feel comfortable with their bodies and wear hoodies and pants while participating. We have students who still wear masks and you can tell they're struggling in the heat. We also do not have working water refill stations (because of COVID) and I worry about students overheating in this heat. Gymnasiums should have both A/C and heat when it's cold out. I tell the students that whatever the temperature is outside is what it usually feels like inside so dress appropriately. Air conditioning in the spring/summer and heat in the winter would make students, and myself, a lot more comfortable. This last week was rough with temps in the 80s. I was drenched in sweat by the end of every day." — **Cheektowaga**

"I teach in an elementary gymnasium. The heat wave was crazy all over the island this week, but it was a literal sauna in our gym. (No ac, barely any air coming in from windows cracked open and just hot humid air.) My partner teacher and I teach five classes a day, sometimes six and it was 90 plus all week. I literally used a towel to wipe the sweat like at the gym. There should be A/C in all areas of the school, not just select rooms. We also limit what the kids could do with us (barely walking to music and then a 'hot meditation'.)" — **East Meadow**

"I work in the gymnasium with five to six teachers on the same period with rosters of 30-plus students in each class. The gymnasium does not have any windows and no cross ventilation. Our doors that lead to the hallways remain closed for security reasons. We pride ourselves with all of our participating. This day and age many students are obese and out of shape. The temperature of the gymnasium contributes to the difficulty of breathing. School districts need to be able to have all schools air conditioned." — **Central Islip**

"I am a K-8 PE teacher. Our gymnasium has zero air flow/circulation. We have no windows and no fans. In June it is unbearably humid, and kids are usually dripping sweat. Students have a hard time wanting to participate in physical activity due to the heat. Our building in general has poor air flow since the windows only open a quarter of the way. The 3rd floor definitely reaches 90 degrees on hot days. The locker room offices do not have any windows and it is just as hot as the gym. I would definitely say by June elementary students are burnt out physically/mentally/emotionally and the hot and humid environment is not conducive to learning." — **Buffalo**

"I am a PE teacher and there is absolutely no circulation in the gymnasium. It has been absolutely stifling and students have been greatly affected. They feel sick, have headaches, and constantly need water. As teachers, we also feel the heat and we need help!" — **Northport East Northport**

"I work in the cafeteria as the dishwasher and temps in the summer are well over 90 and no fan or circulated air. We are drenched in sweat the entire time."
— **Beaver River**

"First week of school the Island was on heat advisory all four days. I have no windows and cannot open the safety doors in my gymnasium (safety reasons). I went out after Tuesday teachers conference where we were sitting in an extremely hot cafeteria and brought a temperature gun. The gym on Wednesday topped out at 98, Thursday 99.7 and Friday 99.9. I had to take my students outside under the tree with shade so myself who suffers from heat exhaustion and my students could get fresh air and enjoy the breeze. These are just the temperatures and not including the humidity. All four days were awful. None of my vents have been updated." — **Brentwood**

"The library has no windows; it is the center of the school. The AC has been broken for several years, in addition to that the heat is stuck on. I had to bring in the custodian and principal and have them stand under a vent pouring hot air into the space for them to finally acknowledge the heat 'might' be on. It is currently in the low 90s. We had asbestos abatement over the summer, so I now have to reshelve about 8,000 books, reorganize the space, and rebuild the library in this heat. Yesterday when I left, I was completely drenched in sweat and smelled like a racehorse. I hosed myself down before I'd even enter my own home." — **East Ramapo**

"I work in an unairconditioned cafeteria and spent the day sick to my stomach with an awful headache, letting kids take turns standing in front of a fan as they showed up sweating and red faced." — **East Greenbush**

"In 24 years of teaching Physical Education in the Central Islip School District I have never encountered heat and humidity like I did the past three days. Working conditions were unbearable! I had to change my clothes twice throughout the day because I was wet all over! Everyone was uncomfortable, younger children were crying and lethargic! Nobody wanted to learn a thing! The children didn't experience any relief throughout the day, either. Our schools should be air conditioned! The temperature in the classroom was over 90 degrees. Extremely unsafe and unhealthy for all! Teachers couldn't teach and students had no interest in learning." — **Central Islip**

"Having to teach and learn in my school building when temperatures reach the 90s on top of the humidity is inhumane. Our building windows only open about a third of the way. Most classrooms only have one window; with some rooms that only have emergency windows that are not allowed to be propped open. I teach in the gymnasium where there are absolutely zero windows, and zero fans. We sometimes have 80 students down there at a time and the heat is oppressive in the summer and early fall. Expecting students to learn and exercise in those conditions where you are pouring sweat just from standing down there is unacceptable, and something needs to be done." — **Buffalo**

"I work as a physical education teacher. Our gymnasium traps air and there is not a lot of air circulation. It is very difficult during our hot months to motivate kids to move. We need spaces where we can comfortably and safely exercise when it is hot outside. It impacts the learning environment and is very uncomfortable. This also includes our wonderful fitness center that just has fans in a few of the corners. I feel like the first part of the year our students can't focus when the classrooms are gym are sweltering hot and being outside is not a relief. It is the same at the end of the year and in summer months. Over 1/2 the year!"

— **Cassadaga Valley**

Even classrooms blessed with air-conditioning report that window units and HVAC systems aren't keeping up, and their kids are lethargic and nonresponsive.

"In my classroom with an A/C unit it has been between 82 and 85 degrees. The A/C unit is too small for the room. I was informed the electrical panels cannot handle bigger A/C units. Another class I am in has been between 93 and 97 degrees. Meanwhile, the main office with admin has A/C blasting. This is unacceptable!" — **Monroe-Woodbury**

"I have a window air conditioner, as per a student's IEP who requires it. Even with it on, set to 67 degrees, my classroom was 91 degrees the last two days."

— **Monroe-Woodbury**

"I do have an air conditioner in my classroom due to medical accommodations for myself and certain students who need the temperature below 70 degrees. With the A/C, the temperature in my room has been 83.2 degrees! I cannot imagine the rooms with no A/C." — **Farmingdale**

"Return to school this week to a building where the air conditioning units are not working ... my classroom (on the first floor) has been reading 87 degrees F, but I have gotten it to drop to 82 degrees F! Needless to say, neither my kids nor I can function ... if you set your arm on the desk and pick

it up immediately it sticks! This is ridiculous and it seems unhealthy. I have felt physically ill for the past 3 days and there is no indication of when it will be better. Again, I am on the first floor and there are a total of 4 floors, where those above me are saying I am LUCKY (at 82 degrees, really??)"

— **Utica**

"During the first two days of being back to school, my classroom was at 80 degrees at 7:30 a.m. before students even arrived. We do not have cold air coming out of our venting system, but instead it is blowing out room temp, hot air. Students are complaining that it is too hot, and teachers are sweating before students arrive. At the end of the day, my thermometer is anywhere from 85-89 degrees at 2:06." — **Lansingburgh**

"Despite my best efforts to add fans, pull draft from windows early in the morning, and close blinds the temperature in my classroom this spring alone is upwards of 78 degrees with a month left of school. I have a classroom fish I relocated to a cooler side of the building to prevent his temperatures from rising too high. We do not have central air or window units. My students are red-cheeked, constantly drinking water, and often ask to sit by the windows. The increased temperatures cause irritability to rise for my students in the afternoon and it makes it difficult to have a comfortable classroom conducive for learning." — **Watertown**

"I teach in a classroom with a glass ceiling and walls. No opening windows or working A/C or ventilation. Last week Friday my room reached 104 degrees. My principal and head custodian are aware. When I brought this issue to our building committee, their reply was that the A/C is functional in my room. It is not." — **Buffalo**

"The first week of school, it has been about 90 degrees and feels even hotter in the sun. While my classroom has an A/C, most other rooms in the school do not, and the students had to eat and go to specials in 85+ degree temperatures. This is not conducive to teaching or learning and causes many of the students to become lethargic and more easily frustrated and/or distracted. Many other classrooms in the school do not have an A/C, and they had to deal with these high temperatures all day. This is a safety hazard for students and staff." — **Peru**

"Our library is air conditioned, but another aspect that concerns me for fellow library staff and other classroom teachers is humidity. I've found several paperback books looking positively wilted, and am looking carefully to make sure no mold has grown over the summer. Unstable temperatures and humidity threaten the lifespan of books, magazines and other materials." — **Coxsackie-Athens**

"It's been extremely hot in the classroom even though there were portable air conditioners in the room. The window has to stay open for the tube for ventilation for the air conditioners, making it hard to keep the rooms cool. Portable air conditioners are dangerous because we work with students with disabilities and on the spectrum of autism and the ages of the students range from 2 to 5 years old. They like to stick toys and items in the tube, also the portable air conditioners are very noisy and it causes a distraction for the students which makes it extremely difficult for the teachers to teach." — **New York City**

"Our district has installed air conditioning in about half the rooms in our building. I have a student whose IEP requires the temperature to be below 73 degrees. They installed two portable air conditioning units that have blown out the fuse connected to my computer four times, and they work so poorly that at the end of the school day today with both running the temperature in my room was 84 degrees." — **Hicksville**

"The temperature in my room is 84 degrees and that's with an air conditioner running. I have anxiety so I got a medical form stating that I needed an air conditioner. The district chose to get me the smallest one possible and it does absolutely nothing. I'm hot and miserable and so are the kids, not sure how they expect us to teach or for them to learn!" — Saugerties

"We have had to leave our classroom air conditioners on overnight to 'help cool the building' during the past week. Temperatures have been over 90 degrees, and even with them being left on overnight, classroom temps are reaching over 85. This is only for those who have an A/C. I teach in a classroom without one and the thermometer read 96 degrees ... Learning does not occur when your mind can only think about how hot it is and how uncomfortable you are." — **Saugerties**

"My classroom is warm all the time, but the start of this school year was unbearable. I have six fans blowing around hot air. I purchased curtains to try to keep some of the sun out to keep it cooler. My room registered over 100 degrees. The students were commenting on how wet my clothes were due to the temperatures. I had an air conditioner unit last year for a student who needed the room to be 72 degrees for health reasons. The unit barely worked. The coolest I could get my room was 86 degrees. The head of the maintenance said, 'Oh well, that's the best they could do?!' It was taped in the window for venting, and it didn't stay in very well. That A/C unit was removed and travels with the student. So just ungodly heat for this year." — **Shenendehowa**

"I am fortunate to have an A/C in my room. For the past two days my room, with one A/C and 5 fans, has had a temp of 84. Our team in my hallway experienced 89 degrees. Kids can't learn in this extreme heat. We have snow days ... we

may need to think about having heat/hot days? Or put A/C in THE SCHOOLS. Many school districts already have it." — **Grand Island**

"Rooms on the second floor were close to 100 degrees. It was difficult to breathe and work. Some rooms are air-conditioned, but these are not well maintained, and many do not work or are broken. Rooms without A/C were not provided with anything by the school. We had to supply our own fans. We even had to beg for screens on the windows as wasps kept getting in." — **Northport East Northport**

"Ridiculous. The temperature is around 85-90 degrees. The library is overwhelmingly HOT. A majority of the building is HOT." — **Ravena Coeymans Selkirk**

"My room is on the second floor — with a roof outside my windows. The roof sucks in the heat and radiates it out. I was literally dripping all day long. I did get A/C installed but only because a student had a medical issue. Keeping the door open helps a bit — but then you can't hear to teach." — **Peru**

"My classroom has no A/C, but the closet attached to my room has A/C in it — there's some important computer server stuff in there for the building." — **Lindenhurst**

"A/C keeps breaking on every hot day. Today temps were 85+ humid degrees in our classrooms. Kids and staff did not feel well after being in the heat for only a few hours. Some had to go home as a result. Others left feeling dehydrated, tired, and headaches this evening." — **Rochester**

"It was 78 in a classroom with no windows. The A/C was not working. My office was 80 with no A/C and no windows." — **Newburgh**

"This year our school district has enforced a closed-door policy. I am one of the few teachers who have an air conditioner in the district. Even with the air conditioner, it was very warm in the room as it couldn't keep up today when the temperatures reached the 90s. My colleagues could barely breathe in their rooms, and although we were invited to go to cooler spaces in the building, it is impossible to be in them all day." — **North Bellmore**

Many teachers are forced to dip into their own pockets to purchase box fans, window units, and blackout curtains to try to keep their students safe.

"Ninety degrees today 5-31-22; Used to work in a classroom in the same building that was once 95 degrees.No air conditioning in most classrooms (except for maybe two, which doesn't seem fair) and we have to bring in our own fans to help keep cool. I have two currently running as a type this." — **Wallkill**

**"I purchased over \$300 worth of fans, but they barely helped my situation. I purchased two thermometers yesterday ... so I will be able to gauge the temps throughout the year."
— Patchogue-Medford**

"I have 30 high school students crammed into my classroom and the temperature has been over 90 degrees this week. My clothes are sticking to my body and my face is red and overheated. My students complain that they are too hot to concentrate. They are constantly asking to go get water. I did an icebreaker activity where students had to stand up; they were asking if we could stop to take water breaks. I have two fans in my house which I brought into my classroom, but they don't help much. My own children are upset that they don't have their fans anymore in my house. When I open the windows, bees and wasps fly in (there are no window screens) which kids jump up to run away from them. I hope that no one is allergic. This is not a healthy, productive, or safe learning environment."

— Westhampton Beach

"This week our rooms have been in the 80's. I purchased a portable air conditioner with my own money. I purchased the materials to cover the open window and vent it out and constructed it myself. My room today was 82 degrees with the air conditioner and fans running. A colleague's room at the end of our hall was 87 degrees on her thermostat at dismissal today. The heat makes everyone tired, cranky and uncomfortable which translates to not wanting to work."

— Waterford-Halfmoon

"I am on the top floor by a huge hallway window that is the size of the entire wall. We are roasting away. I have seven fans on. I cannot keep spending my own money to purchase (an air conditioning unit). So now I am spending money on ways to keep cool but what about the children? How can I keep all 20-plus 5- to 6-year-old children cool enough throughout the six-plus hours of the day?"

— Central Islip

"Our classrooms on the upper level are sweltering. It easily will hit in the 80s to the 90s in my classroom. I work with special education students who are in this room for hours. I had to provide many of my own fans from home to keep it livable here. I also have to keep the shades down and the lights off to make it feel cooler. The humidity is also a problem, and my students are just melting." — Argyle

"Heat this past week has hit 88 degrees in my classroom. I teach pre-k. I have purchased three fans at my own expense to try and help. Children this age do not know how to hydrate. They overheat easily. I worry about them regulating their body temp. This is not the first time our



EL-WISE NOISETTE

To try to reduce temperatures, educators darken the classroom, install a box fan in the window, and turn down the classroom lights.

room has been this hot nor will it be the last." — Fredonia

"Our classrooms do not have a thermostat that we can control and there's no air conditioning. I've been teaching for over 15 years and on numerous occasions, the room is warmer than 80 degrees in September/October/May and June. It makes the learning environment uncomfortable and less productive. The heat makes students and teachers feel lethargic even more so by the end of the day, it can be draining. Some students have fainted or experienced heat exhaustion. Over the years I've purchased multiple box fans for circulation. The schools should provide fans at the bare minimum." — West Islip

"I work on the third floor and the temperature is sweltering. I went out and bought a fan, but it did not help. Students were dripping in sweat just sitting in the room. Many had difficulty following along with the lesson because it was just too hot." — Patchogue-Medford

"With the extreme temperatures this week, my classroom has gotten up to 86 degrees ... I am a taxpayer in the district where I work, and I feel strongly that each classroom should have air conditioning. Also, we were given one fan to use in the classroom and we have one window with one screen in it. There are five other windows in my room with no screens, even after more than one request for them to be installed. I should not have to purchase fans for my own classroom." — Pine Bush

"Some classrooms don't even have district provided fans! We come from a well-off district with plenty in reserve to provide fans. Instead, underpaid teachers are being forced to provide fans in their own classrooms." — Lancaster

"My classroom exceeded 87 degrees. I had three fans that I bought with my own money going. I am unable to open all the windows in my classroom and the blinds do nothing to keep my room cool. My students were hot, irritable, and found it difficult to pay attention. I was exhausted and sweaty all day." — **North Tonawanda**

"Temp was 94 degrees in my classroom today — that doesn't account for the "real feel" with humidity. I have 3 fans, which I purchased." — Middle Country

"I teach in a small windowless classroom. Sometimes there are close to 20 kids in there. The temperatures are sweltering. Kids often feel sick in the heat of the room. I have fans but they do little for the heat and just end up being noisy and blowing papers all over. In this day and age, it is ridiculous working conditions for me and students." — **Monroe-Woodbury**

"My classroom windows are east facing and in direct sunlight until noon. Currently at 9am my classroom is 90 degrees — with the windows open. I have to bring in fans from my home to cool my students. Nothing is provided by the district in regard to cooling off." — **Sayville**

"It was 83 degrees in the classroom at 8:45 AM before students came in on the first day of school. As students entered and the day went on it climbed to 89 degrees by 11:00 am and stayed hot the rest of the day. I had two windows open. Only one has a screen. It is yellow jacket season right now. One flew in and landed on a kid's neck, and they got stung! Not only do we not have A/C, but we also don't have screens in the windows. I must provide my own fans. Yet district office and building administrators get to work in air-conditioned offices. Students can't learn or enjoy coming to school because the heat is so oppressive and inhumane. This needs to stop. The teachers and our students deserve better." — **Sayville**

"My 21 second-grade students and I were so hot today which was the first day of school! I had two fans (that I purchased myself) going, and they didn't help. We had sweat dripping off us. If I didn't feel like working, the 7-year-olds certainly didn't feel like working!" — Sayville

"My classroom has been above 88 degrees several days ... They removed our ceiling fans and provided us with a box fan. I have brought in two other fans from home, but they only circulate hot stagnant air." — **Owego-Apalachin**

"With the outside temperatures in the high 90s, the temperature in my room is ranging between 102–110. Add to that the humidity, and we are melting! The district does not have fans in the room, so I have had to spend my own money to bring in fans to make it more comfortable. I leave work every day with a headache and nausea from the heat." — **Lansingburgh**

"My classroom is upstairs on the corner with three brick walls surrounding it. It is an oven! I purchased three fans in addition to the two fans the PTA donated years ago. I also have two air purifiers for myself and a student due to allergies. They blew out hot air the entire day but had to be on to purify the air. The same student was sent to the nurse at least seven times due to his eczema. What a waste of three academic days! Please air condition our schools!" — **Lindenhurst**

"I have bought two fans and six blackout curtains with my own money to keep the temperature down as much as possible. We are trying to use science to create a comfortable learning environment, but, at the end of the day, that is sometimes an impossible task without a properly functioning HVAC system." — **New York City**

"The heat in my second-grade classroom is unbearable. We get the afternoon sun from about noon until dismissal. If it is in the high 80's outside, it is in the low 90's in the classroom. I supply my own fans since the school does not provide them. Students drink water from water bottles because the fountain in our classroom has non-potable water. They frequently must leave the room to refill their water bottles from a fountain located at the other end of our building. Minimal, if any, learning takes place." — **North Tonawanda**

"My classroom has been well over 90 degrees since school started ... I have brought in my own fan in an attempt to cool the room down. It has had an adverse effect on students. They are tired and irritable. The environment is not conducive to learning or teaching. Please help us. Thank you." — **Lansingburgh**

"My classroom is on the cooler side of the building, so it is only 85 degrees in my room. I have two fans from home on, and the windows and shades must be kept closed. I do have a thermometer, but most teachers do not so they do not know how hot it really is, but it must be warmer than my room." — **Newark**

"I was forced to purchase my own A/C unit because I could not withstand the 90-plus-degree temperatures. Even with windows open, fans going, there is no cross breeze, just stagnant air." — Mount Vernon

"We've been back to school three days and every single day I've had children go home sick due to the heat. I've brought in my personal fans, opened all the windows, arranged for short visits to the air-conditioned library and offered my students Italian ices. It is still too hot. There's nothing more I can do." — **Lindenhurst**

While other teachers explain that district safety codes forbade them from opening windows or doors or installing fans, or that their windows did not open.

"I teach in the upstairs wing of our school in a south-facing room. During the first two days, the heat in my room was oppressively hot. Students were sluggish and not engaged due to the heat. Years ago, the district installed new windows which only open a fraction. The district does not allow them (despite no person getting into these windows) to be left open at night. So, the heat only intensified and is very slow to dissipate." — **Amherst**

"I have taught for 20 years in all kinds of weather, but this past week was heinous, to say the least. I saw students begging teachers to open the classroom door to get cooler air in. We cannot. We were told it is a fire marshal code that classroom doors must be closed. They cannot stay open, be propped open, or wedged open. They must be shut. When we opened the windows, hot air came in. Temperatures reached 95 degrees and above in classrooms, and the hallways were not any better. The floors were wet from the humidity, and so were the classroom walls. There is mold growing because of this ... My classroom on Thursday was 95 degrees and I'm on the ground floor. I cannot imagine what the third-floor temperatures were." — **Lindenhurst**

"I have been teaching this week in a classroom with five windows, one does not open. The thermometer is showing at 95 degrees, with 25 students in and out all day. Humidity is high and students are struggling to stay focused." — **Westhampton Beach**

"Today my room was 90 degrees. Our windows only open five inches and now we are instructed to keep our doors closed and locked. It is unhealthy for children and adults." — North Bellmore

"Our building only has air conditioning in certain classrooms — but all offices, of course! Mine does not have it and it was 83 degrees today! We are not allowed to keep our hallway classroom doors open or open the windows over 6 inches. Nobody can understand how hot that is with classrooms full of 29 teenagers!" — **Longwood**

"Today, Thursday 9/7/23, my classroom made it up to 93 degrees. I am on the second floor, and I have one window that opens 6 inches. My assistant principal came in to observe me and had to leave after two minutes. Later I emailed him and asked why he didn't stay, and he said he couldn't because it was too hot. Thirty bodies in a small room with no ventilation is not ok!" — **Longwood**

"Students asked to open the window because it was so hot.. all the windows were open as much as possible." — **Lindenhurst**

"The WINDOWLESS classroom that I teach in had a temperature of 88-degree Fahrenheit on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2023. The 'air handler' in the ceiling does not work."

— **Westhampton Beach**

"Our elementary classrooms have been around 90 degrees this week. Mine doesn't have windows that open fully, they only vent in and open into the courtyard, so there's no chance for a breeze. The air was thick and not moving despite having two fans running high at all times (and which I had to purchase with my own money). My colleagues and I found ourselves feeling exhausted, lethargic, and dizzy from time to time. Administration walked around with cold water bottles as a solution..." — **Westhampton Beach**

"We had a 4th grade orchestra concert on 6/16/22, and the temperature in our district auditorium was 84 degrees. No air conditioning in most classrooms in our district. We are not allowed to prop doors open due to ongoing gun violence, so oftentimes our building the following day is warmer inside than it is outside due to a lack of air circulation!" — **Fredonia**

"Wednesday, September 5 my classroom registered 93 degrees. We were not able to keep the classroom doors open for safety reasons and it was extremely hot because we could not even get a cross breeze. It was torture!"
— **Central Islip**

"We started school on August 31st. We have been told doors must stay shut. I am on the second floor with no A/C. My classroom has been 85 degrees except for the day we got rain. Security comes and shuts my door if I leave it open. The kids beg him to leave it open. Students are lethargic and do not have the energy to take on challenging activities." — **Bayport Blue Point**

"Over 100 degrees and humid on the second floor with 27-plus students in each class. We also can't leave doors open for ventilation because of fire code." — **Lindenhurst**

"It was unbearable this week. The rooms were 95 degrees." — **Lindenhurst**

"Today in my 1st grade classroom it went up to 84 degrees and we were told to keep the classroom doors locked and closed. We are not allowed to bring in our own portable A/C. The children were constantly complaining about the heat and had to keep filling up their water bottles." — **North Bellmore**

"We have been directed to keep our doors closed and locked during class for security reasons. We are not provided with air conditioning or fans. The classroom has no air flow, temperatures are reaching 90 degrees inside the classroom with high humidity. It is just not a conducive environment for learning." — **Saugerties**

"In September and June, the temperature in our building is unbearable. Some have left with heat exhaustion. We used to be able to buy our own A/C and put it in with a doctor's note, but we are no longer allowed. We have teachers with medical conditions who cannot bear these conditions. Most importantly, students are unable to learn in these horrible classrooms where temperatures on the second floor go into the 90s during the hottest days. Please help our students and staff to obtain the proper working conditions that ensures an environment that we are able to learn in."

— **Central Islip**

"I am a physical education teacher who teaches in two very humid gymnasiums. The one gym has access to the outdoors, but we are not allowed to prop the doors open for air, due to the safety of our students (which I agree with entirely). The other gym is open to the hallways, and we keep the doors shut, also due to safety. My concern is how safe is it with high-heat temperatures and no air condition, to be doing physical activity inside when the heat index is above 95? We need better conditions for all involved in this situation, especially the children we teach."

— **Saugerties**

"The classroom temperature recorded today was 93 degrees. Students were red-faced, sweating, and unable to focus! We were told to keep our doors closed and locked for safety reasons! Today was unbearable. ... I came home clothes saturated in sweat, head pounding and dizzy from lack of air ... How is this environment conducive to learning? Please let me know."

— **North Bellmore**

"Our building does have A/C, but the upstairs classrooms do not receive the same ventilation as the downstairs ones. With recent guidance to keep our doors shut and locked at all times, my students and I are suffering in unbelievable temps. Opening the window only helps when the door can remain open, and a breeze can flow through. It's inhumane and not conducive to a positive learning environment."

— **Clyde-Savannah**

"The windows in my room are so old they are basically impossible to open unless you stand on the window cupboards to pull them open. They also do not lock completely so there are pieces of wood to hold them shut. Once they are opened, there is no breeze or air circulating through the room. The students are sweating just sitting in their seats trying to follow along with opening procedures this week. The room temperature has to be in the 80-degree range."

— **North Tonawanda**

"My windows don't open. I have an exterior door that I can't prop for safety reasons. It is HOT in warm weather — windows face the west so afternoon sun is a problem. Also freezing in the winter with easterly winds. The blinds blow! My own children are in Webster. They measured temps in classrooms today — 100+ inside the rooms. Something needs to be done!"

— **Pittsford**

"Can't prop door open to get a cross breeze because the door is self-closing and it's against code. The district does have magnets to install on the wall to allow the door to be propped open, however they haven't installed them yet. No A/C in my classroom. Opened the only two windows in my room at 7:40 a.m., with the one fan on."

— **North Bellmore**

"We have two oddly shaped windows that cannot fit an air conditioner. We are in the basement of our building."

— **Newark Central**

"I'm on the second floor in Islip High School and the temperatures the classroom gets to are unbearable and unhealthy. On days when the temperatures are 80 or higher (especially 90's) the room heats up to temps higher than the outside. I feel faint and extremely overheated. We teach with the doors closed and locked because of security protocols so the air is barely circulating. Windows in my room don't have large openings. I have a brick wall in front of my windows blocking airflow as well. My students are becoming easily lethargic, needing water breaks. All of us are drenched and sitting in sweaty wet clothes."

— **Islip**

"We are only allowed to have box fans and the custodians were told to take any other fans away. They use them to dry the floors. They will take air conditioners out of rooms to put them in rooms with students with IEPs. They tell teachers they must switch rooms."

— **Lindenhurst**

"Temperatures in my classroom were well over 85 degrees today. To keep students safe, we are encouraged to keep our doors closed. This means we cannot have a cross breeze in the room during the day. For the safety of everyone our classroom windows cannot be allowed to stay open at night. This means no cooling off of the classroom with the cooler night temperatures."

— **Peru**

"I asked my building principal and the superintendent for a window air conditioner unit, so the windows could be closed, and the building would remain safe and secure. I was told I could not have a window air conditioner because there was not a 504 plan that required an air conditioner. So, the doors to the building are closed but several windows in the building are open because of the high heat. The building was not safe and secure, and the issue was not a concern for the administration. So, I see the heat as a two-fold safety issue, health issues from the high temperatures and safety issues with windows open causing the building to no longer be safe and secure. I believe there needs to be a law requiring districts to place window air conditioning units in every classroom to keep everyone healthy from the heat and keep the building safe and secure."

— **Pine Bush**

"Today was unbearably hot in my classroom. The temperature outside was 90 degrees and felt like 96+ with humidity. No airflow due to windows only being opened a few inches and district directive to keep doors closed and locked for security reasons. The air was hot and stagnant."

It made it difficult to engage students in active learning. Definitely far from ideal teaching conditions for educated professionals.” — **North Bellmore**

By contrast, administrative offices are nearly always air conditioned, and the inequity of the situation was not lost on teachers — or students.

“Many high-paid administrators, sitting in air-conditioned offices, are not putting in the effort to tackle this problem. Students and teachers, who are the priority, are in extreme heat conditions. This action by school districts shows students and teachers that they don’t matter and are not worth humane treatment. We are experiencing global warming. It is time to address the issue of air conditioning for all!” — **Wyandanch**

“What kind of message does it send teachers and students that the only air-conditioned rooms are the rooms containing technology equipment and the administrative offices? It’s clear: your work and comfort matter and ours doesn’t. It couldn’t be more backwards. When lessons and state testing/ finals are being conducted in rooms exceeding 95 degrees, the school and community suffer.” — Baldwinsville

“Our K-5 building has no air conditioning except for the library and offices. My room on the third floor has air conditioning because it used to be a computer lab. They won’t turn it on because it wouldn’t be fair. It reached 90 degrees today in my room.” — **Weedsport**

“I offered to DONATE A/C units, as in write a check or literally walk in the physical units, and the admin said, ‘it just doesn’t work that way’, as we stood there, in the highly chilled, air-conditioned main office. It’s funny how it doesn’t work that way. I had a conversation with a teacher that week who stated her classroom clocked in at 90 degrees. She had 4 fans running, one of which was purchased by the PTO, but the rest were out of pocket. Any couple of classrooms here or there that did have A/C was due to a student in the class having a medical note stating it was required. But the A/C was not purchased by the teacher. Apparently only fans can be purchased out of pocket by the teachers, and any donations would have to be approved by the BOE and not the principal.” — **Valley Central**

“It was 88 degrees Fahrenheit in a faculty member’s office yesterday (9.5.2023) Some classrooms are so oppressive they have garnered a scent of locker room — specifically, putting 30+ students in a small classroom, with lights on, with a non-working A/C make for a terrible and smelly learning environment. But NO WORRIES — administration is nice and cool.” — **Suffolk County Community College**

“My room is basically a closet carved out of a locker room with no windows and one door. It is stifling during days 80 degrees or higher and unbearable on 90-degree days! The two fans I have just blow the hot air back and forth. I go home after a workday panting and collapse. Meanwhile, the office staff cheerfully go through the hot days, enjoying their cool air. They don’t seem to notice that the children and teachers are all sweating and red in the face!”

— **Webster**

“Today the real feel was 96 degrees. No fans provided by the district. Offered to spend the \$ to buy a portable air conditioner but was told no. I have two personal fans in my kindergarten classroom ... Admin makes the rounds to check on us and then return to their air-conditioned offices. There are only a few areas with air conditioning (music room, main office, etc.). The district is in the process of adding more air-conditioned areas (gym and cafeteria) but it’s not enough. Having some areas with air conditioning and some without is insulting and unfair. I feel bad for children and adults alike.” — **Wallkill**

“I’m 20 weeks pregnant and there are less than 5 air conditioners in my school building — mostly for administration. It’s 90 degrees in New York state and in my classroom, it’s not safe.” — East Ramapo

“Today 90+ in our classroom for our first day. Grade 5 — ELA — first day of middle school. Uncomfortable and distracting. We worked hard to make the best of it, but it was really not an appropriate learning environment. All the offices are air conditioned — fewer people work in those spaces.”

— **Croton Harmon**

“I have been teaching for 20 years now. Year after year, we brought up concerns about extreme temperatures, especially in June and September. My classroom is on the second floor facing the courtyard. We get no ventilation and there is no breeze. The temps have surpassed 100 degrees on days and the students are lethargic with many feeling unwell, especially by the afternoon. Fans are NOT allowed in the classrooms. This is not a healthy environment and certainly not conducive to any learning. While administrators enjoy the comforts of their air-conditioned offices, it’s a shame that teachers and students who are there to LEARN are made to suffer. At times, teachers tried to take children to the basement level to get some reprieve. Air-conditioned school buildings should undoubtedly be a priority. Perhaps administrators should turn off their air conditioners until all of us have the same option.”

— **Franklin Square**

"I am lucky enough to have a classroom that faces the field so if there is a breeze, we might feel it. ... My colleagues facing the courtyard have it even worse. Why are the admin offices, computer labs, and libraries air-conditioned but not rooms that have 25 kids shoved into them, who are expected to focus and learn?" — **Longwood**

"Today my classroom temperature hit 90 degrees. My district administrators (who spend their day in A/C) kept us an hour after dismissal to have a meeting that could've been an email." — **Valley Central**

"I literally threw up when I got home today! I was close to passing out in school, so nauseous and I was hallucinating once I got home. We are working in inhuman conditions while administrators' offices and buildings are all air conditioned." — **Middle Country**

"It reached 80 inside my room today before 10am, and as temperatures soared to 85 to 90 degrees outside each of past three days, it reached 85 degrees inside my room by 2pm. It was like teaching in a sauna. Administrative offices, the library, and student cafeteria have A/C. ... We go through the same thing every year, and nothing improves. As long as administrators have A/C, they don't seem to care about anyone else! I'd like to see all of them shut off their A/C and teach 20 to 30 kids, five to six 40-minute periods every day. Maybe that would change the situation." — **North Colonie**

"The highest the thermometer I keep in my room has ever read was 88 degrees. Opening the windows provides no relief because of the location of my room in the building — there is no breeze as it is located on one side of an 'H'. I also can't even open the windows because of a wasp and hornet problem and allergies to their stings among kids in my class. Sometimes I go to an air-conditioned space on my plan just to breathe better. The one fan I was provided broke and was not replaced. I leave work regularly with my undergarments wet with sweat and shower immediately after getting home — there is no errand-running after work in the warm weather months. I have to take into account the necessity for a shower after work when I make appointments in the spring/summer. Just yesterday I held a meeting with students in the hallway because it was more comfortable than my classroom. I regularly tell people that the environment of the school building in the summer is cruel and inhumane. That the secretaries and principals, guidance office and library get air conditioning and the rest of us don't is a real slap in the face. And that the athletic fields have been renovated to state-of-the-art facilities at both high schools in my district says a lot about priorities. Money is used for things that the community sees" — **West Seneca**

"It's over 90 in my room. We are dripping in sweat. Kids are dying. Asthmatic kids can't breathe. We can't work in these conditions. No cross breeze with windows and door open ... Principal tell us to close the door because of safety as he

sits in an air-conditioned room." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"We have no central air in classrooms, but most offices are cooled. I brought in a personal air conditioner and asked if it could be installed, and the district said no. It can reach over 80 degrees in my room!" — **Schenectady**

"It was 95 degrees in my room today. I was dizzy, faint and nauseous. My dress was soaked, as was my bra. Any money the district gets goes to new administration positions, which are all air conditioned." — **North Bellmore**

"Our classroom thermometer read 102 degrees at 9:45 on May 31, 2022! Our classroom plants were wilted and needed to be set outside in shade to help them survive. Our tables were slimy from disinfectant mixed with extreme humidity. The students were complaining of headaches and were red faced. I do not understand why we continue to sacrifice the health and safety of our students and staff instead of prioritizing them! A comfortable learning space is NOT a luxury but rather a necessity. I cannot help but resent the district administration that sits comfortably in their climate-controlled offices while the students, teachers and support staff suffer in silence. With green options, safety concerns, and common sense, something CAN and NEEDS to be done." — **Bay Shore**

"The school administration, who all have A/C, deemed it too hot outside, and therefore the students had to have indoor recess. The temperature in our classroom got up to 98 degrees. It was truly brutally hot in there. The teacher whose class I was in is next to the kitchen and the black-top. The room also doesn't have cross ventilation. It was an extremely unsafe and inhumane environment." — **East Meadow**

"I'm on the second floor of a brand-new middle school. Some rooms have A/C but not many. Today, my room was close to 95 degrees. I felt nauseous as I left the building. I can walk in any building or establishment nowadays and there's A/C for the people inside. I haven't been in a prison, but I'm assuming they have A/C as well. Yet as a professional with a master's degree and 20 plus years of experience, I don't get the luxury and comfort of air conditioning. ... It's hard for administration to understand that though because they all have A/C in their offices." — **North Colonie**

"I am on the second floor of a building with no A/C. The heat this week was unbearable. Twenty-four kids packed in a room that was 90 degrees. Fans and water were not enough. With climate change, this will be normal. I also don't think it's fair that when we are suffering, members of administration are sitting in air-conditioned offices." — **North Tonawanda**

"In our district, we must provide ample documentation of medical necessity in order for air conditioners to be placed in our classrooms. This same documentation is required from families of students who also have a medical need. If

the room has a person with medical necessity, a portable window unit is installed. In the classrooms with air conditioners, classrooms are still sometimes 80+ degrees. In classrooms without air conditioners, the cafeteria, and the lunch area were 95+ degrees. Currently, all administrative offices, the district office building, and the nurses' offices have central air conditioning." — **New Paltz**

"I teach fifth grade in the upstairs wing at Davis Elementary. We dread each summer and fall because when temperatures get hot, we absolutely roast. For at least the first and last month of the school year, I have to keep a fan in the window, keep windows open overnight, keep lights off while trying to teach, leave the door open, and STILL my room hovers between 80-90 degrees. ... Recently, the principal mentioned in passing that her air-conditioned office was warmer than usual. And here we are sweating, and, in some cases, students are literally sick with the heat." — **Malone**

"Many of us have spoken with the administration about excessive heat. Our superintendent has told us we will not get A/C due to energy costs. We have offered to bring in our own A/C's AND pay a stipend for energy; the superintendent refuses to consider this option. He also rationalizes that excessive heat isn't frequent in our area. However, we ALL suffer more than a "few days" a year. In our welcome back meeting this year, he told us to remember these days because we will yearn for them this winter. To all teachers in the Peru District, we find this an unacceptable response from administrators (who, mind you, have air-conditioned offices). We urge you, NYSUT, to help teachers and students achieve reasonable teaching and learning conditions!" — **Peru**

"Why are the offices always air conditioned? It isn't fair to the students, teachers, and cleaners who must work in these conditions. We need to advocate for a safe and healthy environment in our public schools." — **Lancaster**

"Why they can afford to make the district side/offices way too cold and keep the students and teachers sweating I'll never understand. During a summer play my daughter was part of, the kids were so hot they were vomiting and fainting. I've always been appalled by this. Why can we not afford A/C for the two hot months for the little children who are smaller and more affected by heat, yet we can freeze the offices?" — Pittsford

"Except for the administrative offices and new wing, the school has no air conditioning. Rooms are well over 90 and we have pre-k and Kindergarten in those rooms. And then there is the high school that has three floors, and the third

floor feels like it's 100 degrees." — **Randolph**

"I think it's absolutely ridiculous that the administrators in our district are in cool temperatures, and they have no children in the room trying to learn. It is unfair to the children who are trying to learn, and it is unfair to the teachers who are trying to do their best to teach these children in our care." — **Lindenhurst**

"The first week back has been brutally hot. I teach in an older building on the third floor with basic blowers installed only. My students, even after the first day, asked why we didn't have air conditioning and what they could do to help the school afford it. I had told them to contact their local government officials which is why I am writing this now. I believe that installing air conditioning in all rooms of the school (not just SPED rooms, which can also cause issues due to the questions of 'why do they only get it') would positively impact students by allowing them the ability to stay focused, interact positively and try new things instead of shutting down." — **Lansingburgh**

"Unbelievably hot. Temperature in the 80s in my classroom, and it's even hotter on the second floor ... No air movement, even though I had the windows and door open for ventilation. Sweat dripping down my own back. The children are extremely hot, uncomfortable, and unable to concentrate. We are only able to use two fans because of the lack of outlets to plug into. Terrible working conditions." — Middle Country

"I tried to order an inside air conditioner, not the windowsill type because that 'wasn't safe!' ... I was denied that. Then both science classrooms on the 1st floor below my room had windowsill air conditioners installed! ALL the business offices, and administrative personnel had air conditioners in their windows!" — **West Valley (retired)**

"Classroom temps are over 100 degrees. It's unbearable. Children and staff are dripping with sweat, lightheaded, and lethargic. ... There is only A/C on in the main office, faculty room, and library. We are unable to teach, and students can barely function at normal levels. It is extremely hot, and one fan does nothing but blow hot air around." — **Middle Country**

"I literally threw up when I got home today! I was close to passing out in school, so nauseous in school, and I was hallucinating once I got home. We are working in inhumane conditions and administrators' offices and buildings are all air conditioned." — **Middle Country**



EL-WISE NOISETTE

Teachers try to cool students off with open doors and box fans, but to no avail.

During the heat wave, district administration sometimes permit teachers to seek refuge in air-conditioned communal areas of the school, like the library or auditorium. Teachers even find relief for students in air-conditioned hallways, with many classes taking place on the floor outside the classroom. This, of course, comes with its own drawbacks, including lost learning time.

"During last week as temperatures soared into the mid 90's, my classroom was recorded to be 102 by a small thermometer. We were told that if we would like to bring the class to the auditorium for a short time to cool down ... My class was in the auditorium for about 40 mins with two other classes. This didn't allow for teaching, and students who were able to access the internet attempted to work in I-Ready, but it was impossible to hear the program."

— **Mount Vernon**

"I'm lucky to not be in the 4th/5th grade in my school. The temps upstairs get way past 100 on numerous days. The poor students/ teachers have to take shifts to conduct class in the cafeteria because there is actually A/C there. It's sad they have to leave their room so they can actually learn. I see pure sweat dripping from faces by the end of the day. My classroom also gets awfully hot, and my little ones get so tired. They can't concentrate on anything. I can't imagine what upstairs feels like." — **Syracuse**

"After experiencing mild temperatures in May and June, we returned to school during a heatwave that teachers and/or students will likely not forget. My classroom reached over

105 degrees with three fans! While I had the opportunity to schedule my students in the teacher's faculty room, my colleagues were not so fortunate. Most teachers were unable to keep lights on in the classroom and coupled with the heat, students looked like they were going to fall asleep (and some did). Teachers resorted to piling into the teacher's faculty room whenever possible, but the students did not have that luxury. It was so hot and though we got through it, these conditions are not suitable for anyone." — **Central Islip**

"Students have been back to school for two days. Both days temperatures were in the 90's. In our classroom we keep the lights off, windows open and my personal fans were brought in from home. The first couple days of a new school year often set the stage for classroom rules, procedures and routines. The past two days have been so hot that we have been doing minimal work because students are heat fatigued and irritable. We have managed to get through, but a cooler room definitely would have been more comfortable and would have allowed us to be more alert and less irritable. I have had a headache due to the heat and felt sick to my stomach one of the days. Students also complained of not feeling well. My daughter attends high school also and has classes on the 3rd floor. The temperatures she endured the past few days have also been awful. She was sick to her stomach, and complained that she never drank any water the whole day due to her schedule being new and she was trying to figure it out. She was extremely fatigued. These conditions are not healthy for our students and faculty." — **Keshequa**

"Our first week back at school was marred by students and teachers almost passing out from heat exhaustion. There are classes with no A/C that had an A/C at one time, but it was moved to follow a student to another class. The teachers begged the district to get another A/C but instead of doing that, they moved the class for a period or two just to accommodate the students with A/C on their IEP. Thirty students must move classes because the district will not get more air conditioning units — 30 students who are just starting school. The teachers must take all supplies with them. There is little regard for the needs of the staff and students. Our principal questioned why they would remove an air conditioner, instead of adding another one. He also told the staff to move classes into the auditorium or library, where there was air conditioning. That was so kind, but the students needed to go to the classroom first and then walk to those areas. I understand the costs are high to put air conditioning units in all classrooms, but if we are being asked to come back to school earlier in the year and stay later in June, it is a necessity." — **Lindenhurst**

"It was ridiculous how hot it was. I couldn't even think. The students looked miserable. I teach at the end of the day, so I ended up having to go into a fashion classroom where

it was cooler. Unfortunately, the classroom set up was not conducive to the activity I wanted to do, so I had to scrap it. One thing we have always been taught, as educators, is to ensure that students feel safe emotionally and physically. My students were not safe last week." — **Lindenhurst**

"Ninety-two degrees on the first day of school ... Students working in the hallways outside of rooms to cool off."

— **North Bellmore**

"Many classes roamed the halls just to remove themselves from their blistering hot classrooms. We spent the first three days soaked in sweat. One of my students asked, 'You know when you go in the pool and when you get out to go to the bathroom, you have to peel your bathing suit off you? That's what it's like at school.' It should be illegal." — **Lindenhurst**

"Third floor of the high school my classroom reached 88.5, today. At the end of June last year, it got over 90 ... Today, administration tried to relocate the third-floor classes to cooler rooms. Some of these other rooms had air conditioning but others were just a floor lower in the building. My science lab with 20 students was supposed to cram into a computer/tech lab around some large tables instead of desks on the first day of school. On the first day I need to be in my room as we are going over how my classroom is structured and specific expectations."

— **Lowville**

"Last week the temperature in my room was 99 degrees. It was so unbearable! I was able to take my class to an air-conditioned room from 1-1:50 on Thursday and Friday. It is totally unfair that some rooms are air-conditioned, and some are not. Routines were not established, work was not done, it was a nightmare." — **Lindenhurst**

"The beginning of the school year is always a challenging one, especially in an elementary building with approximately 600 students ages 3 to 5. This heat, lack of ventilation and appropriate climate control devices has made it so much harder to ensure that students feel safe in a brand-new space. ... We were told by administrators that we could swap rooms with those that are air conditioned. However, that is not realistic being that we have four classrooms with air conditioning and about 25 without ... Classrooms need proper ventilation to ensure that students have an appropriate learning environment." — **Ossining**

"Today my classroom temperature was recorded at 93 degrees. It was unbearably hot. We were given the option of trying to find someone that we could visit with A/C, however, the thought of giving these kids A/C and then having to go back to our hot classroom seemed like it would just make it harder for us all." — **North Bellmore**

"I'm a physical education teacher, and I teach in the gymnasium. The thermostat in the gym read between 90 and 92 degrees from Tuesday through Friday this week!

One day I was offered a cooler room after I requested it, but that space wasn't available for all my classes. One of the elderly aides almost fainted there yesterday. It was brutal!"

— **New Hyde Park – Garden City Park**

While the beginning of the school year is supposed to be an important transition time, during which students are introduced to new routines and rules, excessive temperatures frequently force teachers to scuttle those essential preparations and just focus on surviving.

"My class averages 87 degrees which is not even the temp with the high humidity. ... We are so uncomfortable with headaches, constantly thirsty, and very unfocused due to the temps. We are trying to teach new routines, rules and curriculum to a classroom full of second graders, but it is unfair to these kids who are so overheated! We are struggling all day long. Please help us!" — **Monroe-Woodbury**

"I have had consecutive days of 86 degrees in my room. It is horrible and I have to wear a T-shirt and shorts. At my school this is multiple classrooms. Kids eventually do not want to work and we are constantly taking drink breaks. Our kids struggle even more during the days with high temperatures." — **Syracuse**

"First day of school was today and attendance was horrible. Kids and families avoid waiting for buses or sitting in classrooms that were stifling hot. I felt like I was melting and it's going to be just as bad tomorrow. The kids didn't even want to eat because they were so hot. Fans in the windows did little to help the heat. The worst part is the building is all brick and is like an oven that will retain the heat for days."

— **Syracuse**

"Our building has been extremely hot for the past month. The air is stagnant, and the fans just push the hot air around. The students are complaining that they can't breathe, they are sweating, and lethargic. A colleague of mine brought in a thermometer and his classroom reached 92 degrees inside. This is unacceptable to demand our children sit in these saunas and attempt to learn anything."

— **West Seneca**

"I teach a special needs classroom on the second floor. Once it hits 80 degrees outside you can increase that temperature and humidity by 10 degrees. It's horrible. The kids are miserable and so are the staff." — **Utica**

"The temperatures in September, May and June can be unbearable. Learning does not happen. Children and adults are all miserable." — **West Seneca**

"I teach on the second floor in an elementary building. This week has been unbearable. As you make the turn halfway up the stairway, the temperature increases dramatically. It is stifling and we are suffering from headaches and lethargy. Everyone is irritable. Some students are dizzy and nauseous. We try to conduct class in the dark on the floor; that's no way to learn. Even our downstairs colleagues' comment on how oppressive the heat is. Meanwhile our administrative offices are air conditioned, and our test-grading rooms are so cold that teachers need blankets!"

— **West Seneca**

"My students are falling asleep in class by 10 a.m.; I am literally melting by the end of the day. Having a hard time focusing throughout the day and feeling lightheaded."

— **Syracuse**

"The beginning of school is usually filled with excitement and eagerness to start fresh and brand new, but this year was more exhaustion, feeling lethargic, sweating profusely, and just feeling sick from all the heat. Air conditioning is not a luxury. It is a necessity. There are children and staff with illnesses that should not have to put their health at risk. Personally, speaking I was very close to passing out the first day of school, leaving work soaked with sweat and a headache. I've also developed some symptoms that may be due to the heat. The children were feeling very sick, could barely keep their heads up and some even went home because the heat was too much for them. Something has to be done. It shouldn't just be support staff and certain offices in buildings that have cool air. It should be everyone."

— **Central Islip**

"My room was registering 88 degrees at 12:15 pm on 9/7/23. All windows were open, and two fans were blowing. There was NO breeze coming through the windows at all. I have been dripping sweat. Students seem lethargic from the heat." — **Westhampton Beach**

"The heat index in my classroom was over 100 degrees in the afternoon. I try to keep my shades down and lights off, but this does not provide enough relief. My students and myself suffer greatly during the afternoon classes. Many could not keep their heads-up during lessons, and I became very dehydrated and had headaches the past nights." — **Amherst**

"Teaching was extremely difficult due to the children being overly heated and constantly asking to get water. The children were in and out of the classroom to get water which interrupted the classroom lessons. Several students weren't feeling well because of the extreme heat. I also had a student stung by a bee that entered through the window. This situation could've caused serious problems for the student and his family. If windows were closed and A/C was on, this situation could've been avoided." — **Central Islip**

"The kids were lethargic and nauseous. I was unable to properly do my job from feeling the effects of the heat. Sweating and dizzying, I tried my best to just keep the kids engaged as much as possible, but we certainly didn't attain nearly anything that needed to be accomplished to get this school year off. It's a health risk, and I'm disheartened that this is one more way in which I have professional degrees but a poor and unjust work environment." — Lindenhurst

"With school just starting, we have only been in class for three days now. However, I have never felt it so hot in my classroom. The temperature has been 86 and 87 degrees. I am in an inside classroom that faces a courtyard and there is no breeze or relief to be felt despite the windows being open. I normally have a very active classroom with a lot of moving around and survey taking, as a means for students to get to know one another and to remind them that they need to speak, as this is a world languages class. I haven't done this as my students are 'melted', even in the early morning. I have been teaching for many years (30+) and do not recall such conditions. I advocate for one of two things: heat release days or air conditioning in classrooms, if the weather is going to continue as such." — **Amherst**

"This week, in my 29 years, was the hottest. Being in the heat created an atmosphere where survival of the day was the only objective. Forget the excitement of starting the new year, meeting and making new friends. All the students wanted was to go home. Three students fell asleep due to the heat, papers ripped from the humidity, and the general feeling of 'this is not fun' was felt throughout the school. Putting all the opinionated thoughts aside, my classroom also consists of students with breathing issues. How is containing children within a cement box without cross ventilation in any way conducive to learning and created a positive impression on a child." — **Central Islip**

"The direct sun on my classroom in the afternoon creates an environment where we cannot focus — pulling the shades down then makes it difficult to get fresh air from the open windows. I have two fans in the classroom of my own, but it just isn't enough. At least three days this week are supposed to have temps up in 90's — I do not anticipate getting my students to do the fun, engaging activities where we walk around and go on scavenger hunts and solve brain challenges as they get to know each other. I am limiting movement and keeping kids spaced apart for comfort." — **Valley Central**

"Second floor of an elementary school ... We were trying to begin a year together but we're so hot, it made it impossible." — **Lindenhurst**

"Last week, the first week of school, the temperature in my 4th grade classroom was 95 degrees. The first week of school is so important to teach the routines and procedures for the year. The kids could not concentrate. They were lethargic all week." — Lindenhurst

"I care about my students' well-being. I care about the positive environment I can create within the classroom. A direct quote from one of my students, 'I can't focus, it's too hot.' I have three small box fans in my small room and the classroom temperature was still boiling at 86 degrees. It is inhumane to allow students and faculty to walk around in the school in these conditions. We need to put the students first and consider their mental and physical well-being. Our students and faculty deserve to enjoy their time in school to the fullest capacity. It is impossible to do so in this unhealthy environment." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"My classroom temperature goes up to 97 degrees on most days. I have no outlets to plug fans in because computers are plugged in. I am supposed to have an air conditioner due to medical condition, but the district denied my doctor's request even though I had an A/C in my classroom for several years. The kids complain that they feel like they are going to pass out." — **Central Islip**

"The first days of school are supposed to be filled with learning, sharing, laughter and new beginnings. Instead, the first three days of school so far have been filled with hydration breaks, lights and projectors turned off, tired students and an impossible learning environment due to the extreme heat. Our classroom reached a temperature of over 90 degrees and with very little space available to cool down despite the one wall fan being provided ... Not to mention the fact that full school instruction has yet to begin due to setting up the classroom culture. It is unfair and unhealthy for all to be in a room at such high temperatures but even worse for our students who suffer." — **Lindenhurst**

"It is currently 88 in my 4th-grade classroom with a heat index pushing 100. We have two ceiling fans and one small floor fan in the room — they are doing nothing to help. The kids are miserable; lethargic, complaining of headaches and tummy aches. There is no learning happening here today — we can't function in this heat. I am getting a migraine. I have parents dropping off frozen treats to try and help. This is crazy." — **Pittsford**

"It's literally inhumane to have to work in these conditions with a bunch of kids in your classroom. They are tired, nothing gets accomplished, and we're just trying to make it through the day. I really believe the temperatures have changed over the course of time where it's warmer earlier and stays warmer later. We shouldn't have to get doctors notes in order to have an A/C in our classrooms."

— **Saugerties**

"Students were forced to sit at their desks, with the lights off and heads down when the heat became too much for them. It was so hot they couldn't go outside for recess. ... The conditions students had to sit through were unbearable and made for an ineffective start to school."

— **Northport East Northport**

"It was 95 degrees in Patchogue, NY and we are without air conditioning. Our classrooms are measured above the recorded temperature outside since our buildings were built for retaining heat in colder weather. We were placed under a heat alert on the first day of school. As an elementary music teacher ... it is nearly impossible to have my students move around to music safely with the heat advisory."

— **Patchogue-Medford**

"The last few days have been absolutely unbearable. I left work today with a pounding headache. I kept things simple for my students because it was hard for me to be productive in an oven of a classroom." — **Plattsburgh**

"These first couple days of school this week, it has been 90 degrees and 85 degrees. On the second floor of our middle school, I had sweat rolling down my back by 8:25 a.m. just from basic tasks like walking around the classroom to check in with students and take attendance. Even with windows open and fans on, it is so warm that it's difficult for students to concentrate. I've had students tell me that they are too hot to eat breakfast or lunch. The paper in our notebooks became too moist to write on by the afternoon. Students with asthma are under greater risk in these conditions simply walking through our hallways from class to class." — **Cheektowaga**

"At 8 a.m. my classroom is already 82 degrees with 75 percent humidity. Throughout the day I move and dance with my music students, and the heat soars higher, capping at 93 degrees. There is no A/C and I have students getting frustrated and agitated as they walk in." — **North Bellmore**

"With the extreme heat in my classroom and barely any fresh air circulating, it has been beyond a challenge to properly start our school year. My students were complaining constantly of the heat, and many had melt downs and were crying due to minor issues because they were overheated and sweaty." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"Our school district does not have air conditioning. If the state wants achievement scores to increase, they need to make the learning environment cool and comfortable for all." — **Peru**

"Kids can't learn in high heat. Middle schoolers shut down, the exhaustion is real ... and they can't concentrate. Something needs to be done to keep our kids and staff safe." — **Royalton Hartland**

"Last year my room started at 84 degrees at 7:30 a.m. and by the end of the day it was 94 degrees at 2 p.m. This is unacceptable temperature for students to be expected to concentrate and learn, let alone perform well on a final/Regent's exam." — **Ravena Coeymans Selkirk**

Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
<p>ACT FAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to a cooler area • Loosen clothing • Sip cool water • Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve 	<p>ACT FAST</p> <p>CALL 911</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move person to a cooler area • Loosen clothing and remove extra layers • Cool with water or ice
<p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Thirst</i></p> <p><i>Heavy Sweating</i></p> <p><i>Nausea</i></p> <p><i>Weakness</i></p>	<p><i>Confusion</i></p> <p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Becomes Unconscious</i></p>
<p><i>Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.</i></p> <p><i>Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.</i></p>	

NATIONAL INTEGRATED HEAT HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM

And for school's newest students, the transition is especially rough. Children who looked forward to attending school for the first time, soon come to associate the learning experience with suffering.

"I teach kindergarten. This is the beginning of my 23rd year. My classroom was so hot and uncomfortable this week. I opened all my windows and used the screens and 3 fans (that I paid for), and they provided minimal relief. The children were extremely uncomfortable and were unable to focus on the first week getting-to-know-you tasks and routines. We took many water breaks (so I could ensure they would be hydrated) and therefore many bathroom breaks. They were sweaty and upset for most of the week. I felt horrible for my kiddies because although I tried to comfort them, there was really nothing I could do other than give them a hug, offer water, shut off the lights and play quiet music. They had little energy to participate in the fun getting-to-know-you/community building activities I had planned for the week. On Friday, it was cooler outside than it was in my classroom. The heat was brutal this week. It is difficult to understand how district offices are air conditioned, but classrooms where children are learning are not." — **Central Islip**

"Obscenely hot and inhumane. I teach kindergarten. Try to imagine engaging 4- and 5-year-olds with a 'feels like over??!! I cannot understand how they got away without releasing us early." — **Westhampton Beach**

"At least 80 all week with intense humidity. Not ideal for kindergartners." — **Westhampton Beach**

"I am a pre-K teacher starting my 10th year in this grade in this district. I LOVE my students but watching 3- and 4-year-olds start to cry on the first days of school because they are too hot in their classrooms is heartbreaking. This is their first week of school ever, and my first priority is to set them up with a love of school and learning to last them throughout their academic years. When their very first days and weeks are hot and miserable, they learn that the classroom environment is not necessarily a comfortable one." — **Ossining**

"Teaching kindergarten in a room that is 89 degrees or higher with sweat dripping down my face and fans so loud students can't hear is a hard learning environment for students and teachers." — **Amherst**

"I work in a pre-K classroom with 18 students and five adults. Our room is ridiculously hot with little air movement and windows that barely open. We have a small window fan and a box fan, but it barely touches the extreme temperatures in our room." — **Syracuse**

"The school experience has been marred for my kindergarten students by the heat. Learning routines, behavior, and even playtime have been affected by the high heat. Many students are weepy, lethargic, cranky. Being able to sit and listen is hard when you're only 5, but it's even worse when it's so hot." — **Bedford**

"Today, September 7, the room temperature reached 87 degrees in my classroom. I had all windows open and four fans running, and it still reached this temperature. The kindergartners in my class were falling asleep from the heat, completely lethargic and made frequent trips to the water fountain after finishing the water they brought in from home. I drank 48 ounces of water, or more, and only needed 1 trip to a bathroom all day because I was sweating profusely!" — **Brentwood**

"Today, my fellow pre-K teacher friend's classroom's temperature was 89 degrees. The thermostat in my room is broken but I know my room was at most a few degrees cooler. How can we expect any students, especially 3- and 4-year-olds, to learn in an environment like that?"

— **Dolgeville**

"Yesterday 9/6/23, by 9 a.m. my classroom temp was 94 and kids were dripping with sweat. By 1 p.m. students were falling asleep and room temp hit 98. My students are in first grade and are struggling with staying awake with this heat. Please help!" — Syracuse

"Our pre-K classroom was so hot I headed up with a smashing headache. Parents came in to meet with the children, but they all complained about how warm it was in the classroom. Sweat was dripping off them. Not good."

— **Herkimer**

"Very hot in the spring and summer months and cold in the winter. We have a school for pre-Kindergarten students through second grade. These little people get hot, tired and do not want to work. They have to deal with extreme heat, and we are not allowed to use the industrial fans because I fear one of their little fingers may get hurt. We have to work through the day with lights off and pray for a cool breeze."

— **Buffalo**

"My kindergarten classroom was well over 90 degrees for the first three days of school. My classroom is on the second floor, facing a brick wall. I spent my days trying to comfort the little ones during their first experiences with public school. I purchased popsicles with my own paycheck, that hasn't come yet, and that was the only relief that I could offer." — **Jordan Elbridge**

"Our elementary building has seen several renovations where some classrooms have chillers and others have nothing. My kindergarten classroom was 88 degrees on the first day of school. I felt nauseous and dizzy towards the end of the day, the kids were beet red and sweaty. It was beyond uncomfortable." — **Elmira**

"This week the temperatures in our kindergarten classes were measuring 98 degrees! For many kids this was their first exposure to a school setting, and it was not the first

impression we would want our babies to have! To say that very little impactful learning took place on these days is an understatement. Jails have air conditioning. Groceries stores, nail salons, restaurants, the list goes on, but our children do not! This blows my mind."

— **Lindenhurst**

"As a first year kindergarten teacher, my room was 92+ degrees this week. This highly affected the productivity and learning within my classroom. My students were visibly uncomfortable and drained. This is beyond unacceptable. We must prioritize our students. I thought we were supposed to be helping our students. These conditions are hurting them." — **Lindenhurst**

"We began the day with the best intentions. We unpacked, sang songs, read "back to school" poetry and played getting-to-know-you games. By 10am the students began unraveling. Their faces were red, foreheads dotted with perspiration. Some children began complaining of headaches. Some began crying and saying they missed their mothers. Others just lay their heads on their desk and stopped interacting with classmates and their teacher. At 10 am the temperature in our classroom was 85 degrees and at 65 percent relative humidity." — North Bellmore

"We have had classroom temperatures of 95 degrees and above for the first three days of school. I have 26 kindergartners and 4 adults in one room. Children have been crying because they are too hot. ... We were not even able to take the children outside to sit under a shady tree because of the 'heat alerts' which require us to stay in the building. Our floors are wet and slippery because of the humidity which presents an additional health risk for the adults and children." — **Lindenhurst**

"I have a kindergarten class and the classroom has been at least 83 degrees. The students are constantly asking for more water, their faces are red and flushed, and it's hard for them to learn anything in the heat." — **Niagara-Wheatfield**

"Our temperature in full-day kindergarten has been unbearable. I had a student go home with a fever of 102.5 from being sick and I can't imagine what it was like for him. Our thermostat which I'm not sure how accurate it is, read 85 in our room." — **Saugerties**

"My students are 5 years old and were dripping sweat from their noses. They were constantly asking for water and were unable to pay any attention because they were so hot and sweaty. They complained about how hot it was and were unable to play or have dance breaks because we had to limit the amount of physical activity."

— **Patchogue-Medford**

"I work in the kindergarten setting and the first week of school has been a horrible experience for them. I have never had so many crying students because of the heat. It was impossible to teach in these conditions."

— **Lindenhurst**

"My kindergartners and I experienced hot temperatures in our classroom. The heat was brutal especially on the 2nd and 3rd floors of our building. Hitting 100 degrees in rooms. The heat index was so bad that I experienced swelling in my fingers and developed an arthritis type pain." — **Bedford**

"The temperature in my kindergarten classroom today was extremely high with no way of cooling off. Students were very uncomfortable and needed to refill their water bottles multiple times. Students were mentioning throughout the day that their head was hurting tremendously. In the classroom there were two standing fans going to try and cool the students." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"No other workplace would be expected to work in an office at 90 degrees. Why should children, some of whom had their first days in kindergarten, have to experience such an unfavorable and cruel setting? New York had two days of official heat advisories and one day of a modified heat advisory. If that happens again, the school day needs to be modified accordingly with no access to air-conditioned classrooms." — **Lindenhurst**

"Today was my first day with my new kindergartners. Our classroom got up to 87 degrees. The kiddos were wiping their foreheads with wet paper towels to cool down. It was a terrible experience for everyone." — **Niskayuna**

For medically vulnerable students and staff or those with health conditions, the unhealthy environment is especially dangerous.

"As a pregnant woman, my body naturally overheats to accommodate my growing baby. It is hard to teach and be in any of the classrooms with no air circulation even when the windows are open. I can't imagine what our students go through during summer school. It isn't about heat discomfort; this is a matter about safety. Asthma also starts to act up when there's poor circulation of air, making it difficult to breathe. NYS, please put air conditioners or central air in our schools for the health and safety of our teachers, staff and students. Thank you." — **Syracuse**

"Our upper floor classrooms become unbearably hot in early fall and late spring. I have recorded the temperature up there over 100 degrees on a few occasions. I've had students vomit because it is so hot. I have asthma and struggle to breathe when it is like that. There is no way students can learn anything in that environment, it is completely inhumane." — **Utica**

"My oldest daughter has epilepsy which can be triggered by extreme heat! All these schools have more than one

floor and require many ups and downs in windowless stairwells throughout the day. They also play PE with no air conditioning. The extreme amount of students in the hallways and extreme temperature is a serious concern. And the teachers having to manage their own heat concerns with that of their students is ridiculous. We go to school until June 29th! We attend the first week of September. The seasonal calendar shows that school occurs during the summer months. So why is there no air conditioning? How are people supposed to teach and do you think children are listening or learning when they're only thinking about how hot it is and when the day will be over. Take care of our children and our teachers!"

— **Valley Central**

"Oftentimes the temperature will get so hot in the classroom in September and May/June that I will get migraines. It is a horrible experience to have to teach in this condition. One day it was so bad, I had to pull over and vomit during my drive home. Also, the fact that when teaching in the heat while dressed professionally, sweat is pouring down my back. Students are sweaty, listless and obviously unmotivated in these conditions." — **Wallkill**

"My 7th grade math classroom on the 3rd floor of Highlands Middle School with no A/C ranged from 86 to 92 degrees the first week back to school. It is totally unacceptable for any of us to work under these conditions. One teacher fainted on Thursday and another teacher had heat stroke on Friday." — **White Plains**

"Although the windows open, we need to keep the shades closed to keep the sun out. By the afternoon, the room is in the upper 90's plus humidity. We use a fan, but it provides no relief and my students with autism are very sensitive to the noise the fans produce so behaviors usually occur. Students with seizures are also very sensitive to the heat and we see an increase in physical issues during this time."

— **Amherst**

"My classroom gets so hot and humid that the floor sweats. It's gets very slippery, and you have to walk slow, or you could slip and fall." — **West Seneca**

"91"! Awful we have kids staying home because it's too hot. I just had a kid vomiting in gym class!" — **Syracuse**

"My classroom reached 88 degrees. I came early to open windows and had two fans going, did not help ... I had a student throw up." — **Spencerport**

"My colleague and I had a kid pass out for probably five minutes! We couldn't get him to open his eyes or respond to his name. I went to check his pulse, but then saw his eyes flutter so I knew he had a pulse which is when I went to go get the cold cloth to see if that would revive him. We tried putting a cold cloth on the back of his neck, but still had no response so I had to call the nurse's office. It was very scary. Luckily, we don't have these temperatures all

year, but it's one thing to try to get students' attention at the end of the school year and when it's hot. It's another thing to have children passing out because it's so hot. New York state needs to do better, and our district needs to do better for its students and staff!" — **Webster**

"We have no air conditioning. During heat waves, the students are lethargic and complain about headaches, stomachaches and other ailments. My pregnant co-teacher became dizzy and vomited due to the extreme heat in our classroom. There is an air conditioner in our faculty room, but it was not working properly during this most recent heat wave. This is another factor widening the achievement gap between districts where students are in a well-regulated temperature environment versus those who suffer through extreme heat and cold conditions." — **West Hempstead**

"Due to the extreme heat in my classroom my Rheumatoid Arthritis has been out of control. I'm in excruciating pain. My joints in my hands are inflamed and in severe pain. My feet are swollen and in pain. It was very difficult to teach my second graders." — **Central Islip**

"Today was OPPRESSIVE. It was close to 100 degrees in my classroom! I am on a courtyard which overlooks a brick wall. I get NO breeze and opening the windows makes things worse. I have no fan, the kids were melting, I was melting, and we were all miserable. I have been a migraine sufferer for 25 years and this type of heat triggers my migraines. Nobody should have to endure these conditions without A/C." — **Bay Shore**

"The classroom temperature in the room I am currently in is okay because we have two large shades and an A/C. However, the hallways, bathrooms, some offices, and many classrooms are intolerably hot and humid. Yesterday, we had a high of only 85 degrees outdoors. However, walking through the halls in between classes and to and from offices for administrative tasks left me feeling borderline ill (hot, flushed, headache, nauseous, lethargic). Sitting down in an air-conditioned room is not a default option (see my second sentence). When are these dilapidated buildings going to be updated to reflect climate change and extreme temperatures? Students' and adults' lives are endangered in such conditions." — **New York City**

"My classroom easily reaches over 90 daily during the spring and early fall. Kids are lethargic. As a breast cancer survivor with lymphedema, the extreme heat causes health problems for me. I provided my own fans, but even that isn't enough." — **Syracuse**

"I have atrial fibrillation and heat is one of the triggers of my condition. I have requested a letter from my cardiologist, my electrophysiologist and my primary doctor. They all have recommended and suggested that I request an air conditioner in my classroom from my school district. I went through the protocol of getting the paperwork necessary

and submitted it to the district only to be denied each time. The district doctor he feels that it is unnecessary for me to have it in my classroom. Many other teachers as well as students have been approved for various health issues, I suffer from A-Fib and also should have this accommodation approved due to my health condition. They have no idea what it feels like when your heart is beating out of your chest because of the heat. It's exhausting and uncomfortable. No one should have to feel like this at work and I should not have to take sick days because it's too hot for me to go to work." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"I used to have an air conditioner in my classroom due to my severe asthma and allergies. During the spring, early summer and beginning of fall, my classroom gets extremely steamy, and it causes me to use my inhaler more than often. I become lethargic and out of breath due to the heat and humidity. I often have to turn off the lights and have constant water breaks to alleviate the heat and try to keep the room cool. Students often have water breaks and complain about the heat. This type of environment makes concentration, and learning in general, extremely difficult." — **Central Islip**

"Our classroom is now over 85. We have a student who has seizures, kids with headaches, and pure anxiety exhaustion! I am seriously concerned about a student passing out." — **Syracuse**

"Last week was insanely hot. I am currently 39 weeks pregnant and didn't feel safe in my room. I can't imagine what it is going to be like this week when students start coming in for services." — **Lindenhurst**

"My students, as well as myself, who have asthma are becoming quite ill during class, and many are requiring passes to the nurses. Additionally, because the classroom temperature is so high without air conditioning, my students and I are having difficulty breathing. The educational climate is compromised as students cannot focus on assignments because of coughing, fatigue, and breathing difficulty. Please help our school community by assisting with air conditioning/filtering systems to be placed where students are in buildings during required school hours." — **Central Islip**

"Kids are sweaty and exhausted. As a teacher assistant I had to take my migraine medicine due to the heat being such a trigger." — **Peru**

"I have 3 children who attend school. All 3 of them have come home physically ill at one time or another due to heat, headaches, stomachaches, nausea. It is particularly difficult for my asthmatic child to sit in these classrooms and learn. She can't concentrate because she can't BREATHE. If you want teachers to be at their best and students to continue to learn, give them the respect they deserve and provide a healthy environment." — **Wallkill**

"Special education students are the most vulnerable and needy population in our building. They cannot function or handle the high heat in our classroom. If it's 90 degrees outside, it feels like 95 in the classroom because there is nowhere for the heat to escape, and it feels extremely humid. Several of our students have health conditions that could be easily aggravated and complicated by the high heat. I believe the high temperature could eventually at some point cause an emergency situation in our classroom. ... The main office has A/C but someone has to care enough about our students to advocate for them and intervene on their behalf." — Syracuse

"Student's health and wellness is of utmost importance. My classroom is very hot and students cannot concentrate on learning despite their adequate hydration. I personally have a rare autoimmune disease that is exasperated by hot and humid conditions, and I struggle each hot day to stay healthy and instruct my students. I push through these days but am extremely fatigued and have to spend the whole evening resting and recharging and hydrating so that I can be ready for work each day. I hope we can get appropriate temperatures for everyone so our kids and staff can optimize their learning and performance." — **West Seneca**

"My classroom regularly reaches in the mid 90's. I have a history of passing out from extreme heat. I got a doctor's note for an A/C unit in my classroom. It was not even acknowledged by the central office. This was well over a year ago. Not only do we sweat profusely, but we also have to supply our own fans — which always mysteriously disappear." — **Longwood**

"I am asthmatic since childhood. I also have hypertension and severe allergies. The heat was so extreme and intense that it was limiting my ability to function. I had to use my inhaler more than I should and had to double my hypertension medication. I had severe pounding headaches for more than two days, felt dizzy and nauseous. No one should work under these conditions." — **Central Islip**

"Most of my faculty including myself are over 65 with health problems and the extreme heat is affecting our health. I was told to 'open the windows'. This is not acceptable."
— **SUNY Erie Campus North**

"June 2021 Monday it was so brutally hot and humid in my classroom. I had a headache that lasted six hours. The forecast for Tuesday was more of the same, so I called in sick to protect myself. I want to be with my students. I want to teach. I want my awesome kids to be ABLE to learn. The next day I showed up, armed with cooling towels, ice, a jug of water, and a positive attitude. Soon after I got to work, I learned that my colleague went to the hospital the day before with heat exhaustion/dehydration. I told my kids I would get us all out of the classroom when it hit 82 degrees. It finally did. It had hovered at 81 degrees a long while with still air and God knows how much humidity. I took them out into the hallway and they felt relieved. At

least we had a little breeze. I drove to my rheumatologist's office to see about my arthritis. Soon after I parked my car, I began to have difficulty seeing properly. They brought me water. Eventually I regained my eyesight, but I had to drive home in pain. It's Thursday. Another hot, torturous day. I called in sick again. I do not like to be absent. I do not like to be separated from my students, but here I am again because I don't want to suffer." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"Second-floor classroom with three fans going and my classroom temp hit 90. By 1 p.m. kids were nauseous, and I put cold paper towels on the back of their necks to cool them down." — West Seneca

"I work with medically fragile students who require expensive devices. Our room hit 90 degrees this week, averaging 84.7 degrees over the last two days. Because of the way our district buildings are located, we do not get a breeze through the window. We are built on black top and get the sun all day. It is exhausting and unbearable for adults and children alike. We are told we cannot play outside because of unsafe conditions; however, our classrooms are equal to the temp outside. Our gym is even worse, as it's much hotter than our classrooms. While it is certainly inappropriate to be a professional adult subjected to those conditions, it is borderline cruel to ask primary-aged student students with severe needs and no regulation to be subjected to it." — **Dansville**

"I teach a self-contained kindergarten 12:1 Autism classroom. The heat escalates the students' behaviors, which are already intense due to their disabilities. It is very difficult to try and regulate their emotions in the extreme heat in the classrooms without air conditioning."
— **Patchogue-Medford**

"My classroom gets so hot that it is almost unbearable. It adds to my already precarious situation because of the vasomotor symptoms related to my peri-menopausal state. I requested a 504 plan with an explanation of the intensity of my symptoms clearly explained by my doctor; however, my request was denied. As a result, I've been holding my classes in the library, which is one of the few rooms that is air-conditioned in my building." — **Saugerties**

"I teach students with significant special needs. They have cognitive, sensory, attention, and language impairments. My classroom is in a courtyard facing brick wall. There is no air flow and I get full sun in the morning. On hot days my room starts in the high 80s at 8 am and only gets worse. The humidity in my room reaches over 70%. Children have sweat dripping from their heads onto their desks. The class cannot get any work done in these conditions."
— **Port Washington**

"During the school year and/or summer months, I provide therapy to students with speech and language delays, SSD, APD, LD, ASD, ADD/ADHA, Downs Syndrome, Mental Health Disorders and Multiple Disabilities. Many students

have great difficulty with self-regulation and communication skills on their best day ... add an extremely uncomfortable environment and you can imagine how successful our days have been." — North Tonawanda

"Almost every classroom I teach in consistently reaches high temperatures at the beginning and end of the year. As a music teacher, this is particularly difficult when it comes to protecting instruments from being damaged by exposure to extreme heat. As a music teacher who also teaches students with special needs, this is dangerous since some of my students cannot be exposed to extreme heat for too long (it's in their IEPs). My district has gotten some window units into the home rooms of the students with special needs to accommodate these needs (after fighting for years for them) but the district didn't take into consideration the music room, art room and gymnasium, where these students are also going for instruction." — **Shenendehowa**

"Today's high temperature was 94 degrees with a relative humidity of 72 percent. I ran out of water and could not refill because we were doing MAP testing all day. By the time I refilled my water I had a racing heart and for the first time in 19 years went to the nurse to have my blood pressure checked. My blood pressure was taken a week ago and was normal. Today I was told that my diastolic pressure was seriously worrisome. Our nurse couldn't hear an initial heart beat under the cuff before inflating because I was so low on fluids. My normal resting heart rate is 68. When I walked the short walk to my car I felt my heart racing again. It took over 40 minutes in air conditioning to get my heart rate below 90. Then we had to return to school this evening for back-to-school night." — **Ardasley**

"Three floors, changing from classroom to classroom, many teachers walking over 10,000 steps in a single school day. I honestly thought I was going to pass out. The temperature is contributing to a working condition that is difficult to be effective when we are so dehydrated." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"My classroom thermostats reached 81 degrees yesterday. That was with a window open and a fan running. Then add 20 students to the room ... I have vertigo which is triggered by heat and humidity — usually temps over 75 degrees with any humidity mean I will struggle. Yesterday I was lightheaded and felt like I was on a boat on and off through the day. Those are the mild symptoms of vertigo — if it worsens I could start feeling like the room is spinning and get nauseous to the point of vomiting. Drinking water helps, but then I would have to go to the bathroom more." — **Bolivar-Richburg**



EL-WISE NOISETTE

The classroom thermometer reads 89. High temperatures like this impact children's health and learning.

"Left work on 2 of the 3 days we were in session with a migraine that had me totally incapacitated for the rest of the day." — **Central Islip**

"For the past two days, my classroom temperature reached 89 degrees. My windows barely open. A fan only blows the hot air around, and the kids fight over who gets to sit closest to the fan. ... The reading specialist who pushes into my room to provide AIS services has MS. The extreme heat intensifies her symptoms and brings on headaches. No one should have to work in those conditions." — **Niagara-Wheatfield**

"My doctor wrote a note three years ago stating that I needed air conditioning in my room to alleviate seasonal allergies. Luckily, the district complied, and my allergies have been tolerable ever since. What is not tolerable is the fact that my students and fellow teachers have to deal with unbearable heat all day long, finding relief only when they stop in the office which is air conditioned, or the classroom of another teacher who was also able to procure documentation from their physician. ... I have no idea how these children, in an ever-warming environment, are able to focus to learn anything at all. New York state legislators must act on this urgent issue." — **North Tonawanda**

"Eighty-seven degrees at 8:10 a.m. The students in our program have severe allergies. Some have asthma. Some are prone to seizures. And yet not one of them has an A/C on their IEP. The temperature only got hotter and hotter from 8:10 a.m. Twenty-five special education students and teachers had to cram in a small computer room to get some relief with A/C." — Orange-Ulster BOCES

"As a special education teacher, my students can fatigue easily. During warmer months this decreases their ability to maintain focus. When the classroom temperature rises, so do behaviors within my classroom, which can be evident from behavior data sheets." — **Longwood**

"Our classroom has been over 85 degrees the past two days with one more to go. The heat is making students and teachers physically sick, irritable and lethargic." — **Peru**

"I have been teaching for 24 years. Every year it gets hotter and hotter. Five years ago, I was diagnosed with a skin disorder called HS. It is a disease of the sweat glands. When I do not have access to showers or air-conditioning, I develop pea-sized cysts that look like acne, but they can last up to a year, and they are painful. Not only is it the physical pain, but also, they are embarrassing, and they have impacted personal and Internet relationships. ... Society having us teach in extreme heat is immoral and sadistic. Schools need to be revamped and modernized because today's heat is not the heat it was 30-60 years ago when these buildings were built." — **Middle Country**

"I have horrible allergies and reactive airway. My doctor wrote me a note for air conditioning, and the district doctor denied my request. Now I've spent the last two days in my classroom at 100 degrees, and I can barely breathe. My ears are clogged beyond belief, and I can't stay home sick because I can't do that to my students." — **North Bellmore**

"Due to a medical condition, I have a window A/C unit. It is loud and barely cools the room. Twenty-five students, two teachers, and a smartboard make for uncomfortable conditions, but it is nothing compared to my colleagues who have four to five loud fans blowing hot air. Enough is enough." — **North Tonawanda**

"Coming off the playground at 1:10 p.m. and then going to art room in basement where it was at least over 80 made for miserable kids who got into fights and then smashed some things. If I am struggling as an adult to maintain, how do we expect these kids to deal? I work with an integrated class, and these are small things that make their issues bigger." — **Schenectady**

"Have sent students to the nurse today due to overheating. These temperatures are not conducive to a safe learning environment." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"The last week my classroom has been 93-95 degrees. I have had four fans set up and it still is not cooling down. I have students that are going to the nurse for headaches and nausea and I am six months pregnant myself and the heat is absolutely terrible. They need to put A/Cs in school. This is dangerous and inhumane." — Central Islip

"I am five months pregnant, and I got a 504 from my doctor stating that I cannot be in extreme temperatures due to pregnancy. My classroom has no air conditioning, and it has been 90 degrees this week. The sun beats down on the classroom and has made me sick and faint to teach. I have contacted human resources four times since my 504 was approved, but they stated I could not do heavy lifting and did not include about extreme heat conditions. I needed to keep my windows open and today 9/24, I was stung by a bee while teaching. Students fall asleep and don't feel well or want to come to school because it is so hot in my classroom." — **Hempstead**

"My classroom had every window open and there was no breeze: every surface had condensation from the humidity. I saw spots due to being overheated and felt nauseous and lightheaded. The cafeteria had over 100 kids and no air movement. Many kids complained of stomachaches due to the heat. Kids, even those dressed appropriately for the weather were sweaty and some didn't want to sit down because they were too hot." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"I suffer from debilitating migraines that are worse in extreme heat. I have had to take numerous sick days due to the heat. Students with asthma have difficulty breathing and carrying out their school day. Students with behavioral and attention issues struggle immensely." — **Peru**

"My wife is pregnant and forced to teach in a classroom that reached 98 degrees for an extended period today. Not only is it not conducive to education but it is a health hazard for both her and the baby. Please, please something must be done!" — Northport

"I have a history of migraines, and as I've gotten older, heat or elevated temperatures trigger a migraine. In order to get an air conditioner in my room, I had to go to my doctor and get a note. Then the district doctor had to contact my doctor to confirm everything. So, a new school year started, and I was told by my union that the district is requiring an updated letter from my doctor. I don't think I should have to suffer with migraines when I am trying to do my best job to teach the future of our country." — **Lindenhurst**

"I felt quite sick myself and dizzy parts of the day when I stood up too quickly. I've had a headache all week and have felt dehydrated regardless of how much water I have drank." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"My classroom was 91 degrees on the first day of school ... I have a history of heat stroke and did not get much time to be able to refill my water. How are students supposed to function in this heat?" — **Lansingburgh**

"I am in my 20th year of teaching at Division Avenue High School in Levittown. The temperature in our classrooms is

extremely high in the fall and often in the spring. As I teach special education and have students in my classroom with many types of disabilities, the heat is one more reason the students have difficulty focusing. I have voiced my concerns to my principal, who has an air conditioner, but to no avail. ... We continue to suffer every fall and spring without air conditioning. It's one of the main reasons I look forward to retiring." — **Levittown**

"We had to have one student who went home due to heat-related illness while we had several others crying due to feeling awful. I am on the second story of an elementary school that is not climate-controlled. I would guess that there was a 10-15 degree increase just walking up the stairs to the second floor. There is no air movement. It is 100 percent unhealthy for anyone to have to work in those conditions as well as expect these young vulnerable children to sit there covered in sweat merely just sitting." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"The first week of classes for students of the 23-24 school year was unbearably hot. Students and teachers were unable to concentrate or be productive. There are several pregnant teachers as well that were forced to be in unsafe conditions due to the extreme heat." — **Lindenhurst**

"I am an elementary PE and Adapted PE teacher. The gym was 92 degrees and felt even hotter ... everyone in the gym was soaking wet with sweat. Twenty-five percent of my schedule is Adapted PE which consists of students in the ABA program for students with autism spectrum disorder. All these students (approximately 60) have air conditioning on their IEP, which we all know is a legal document. However, due to the expense of A/C In such a large room, they ignore this accommodation for our students. It got to a point that it was so humid the floor was wet and slippery, and papers were so wet I couldn't even write on them. ... The conditions were unhealthy and unsafe for all students and teachers at Daniel Street Elementary School." — **Lindenhurst**

"I'm pregnant and working in a school without air conditioning is extremely difficult." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"Temperatures in classrooms were unbearable. Many students felt light-headed, passed out, or threw up from heat exhaustion. During 3rd period I had to sit and put my head down after vomiting from the heat and dehydration." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"Ninety-three degrees in the classroom is unacceptable. I can barely function. I felt sick and had to sit down. I legitimately have concerns for our female Muslim students who are wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts and a hijab. I kept asking (one student) if she was ok and giving her cold water. I don't have a sink in my class either, so I had to have a class aide refill her water. This is a real safety concern." — **Lancaster**

"The past couple of days have been completely unbearable for everyone in my classroom. Temperatures rose to 86 degrees in my first-floor classroom with a fan that I brought in from home. The students have been suffering from exhaustion, headaches, dizziness, and nausea. Towards the end of the day today many students were unable to find relief with the fan and had difficulty finding a properly functioning water fountain." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"I have had students pass out due to the heat, begin to feel nauseous and fatigued. This is not conducive to learning. In previous school years I have experienced heat stroke." — **Peru**

Parents who reach out on behalf of their children are shocked to learn that their schools are not air conditioned, and that few if any accommodation could be made for them.

"I just recently learned that our schools do not have A/C. While this is very harmful for children, I am also concerned about the summer staff that must work in an airless building. It is 2023, A/C of some kind should be in these buildings!" — **Lindenhurst**

"My daughter attends Albion Elementary and is on the 2nd floor and there is no air conditioning, so it is very hot in the warmer months. I have to send extra water bottles, so she does not overheat." — **Albion**

"When my daughter was in elementary school, she would often come home with a heat rash after school, and I need to give her a bath after school on hot days to cool her down." — **Greece**

"I think with all the technology we have today something as simple as window A/C units should be installed in all classrooms! No child or teen should have to endure heat exhaustion because they have been forced to learn in an environment where they have no ac. I'm willing to bet kids would do better in school and teachers too would be happier if this was enforced. I mean we wouldn't send our kids to school if there was no heat and let them freeze, so why should they have to be in a boiling sweaty hot building all day?! I have 3 children currently in the Wappingers school district in NY and seeing my children come home red in the face and collapse to the floor from how hot they were in unacceptable!" — **Wappingers**

"The heat inside the classrooms is uncomfortable and unnecessary. All the parents visiting the school during orientation where dripping sweat there was no air flow whatsoever. How can kids learn like that? This has to be regulated!" — **Starpoint**

"The temperatures this past week were unbearable. So, when my third grader went to school, a tank top was not cutting it. When she returned home, she told me that a classmate had overheated and threw up. Many of her classmates did as well over the first week of school. The school does not provide fans for the classrooms, so teachers must purchase them if they want one in their room. This is not acceptable, and we cannot expect our teachers or children to thrive in those conditions."

— Cato-Meridian

"Son's first grade classroom was so hot this week that he came home with a splitting headache and vomited."

— Wappingers

"My 6-year-old first grader passed out in her classroom on a 90-degree day after her physical education class. The teacher and her classmates were scared. The nurse attended to my daughter — even carrying her to her office afterwards. The principal and guidance counselors came and addressed the rest of the class. Needless to say, this was very interruptive to the teacher's lesson plans that day."

— Fayetteville-Manlius

"The classrooms in which my children spend their days are unbearable. The heat is terrible, but the humidity makes it impossible. I have heard stories of people getting overheated and feeling sick. We closed two schools to save money. We need air in our classrooms." — **Northport East Northport**

"The first week of school, temperatures reached nearly 100 degrees outside. My son, attending kindergarten in the Lindenhurst school district, came out of school on the first day drenched in sweat. The following days were no different. Something must be done!" — **Lindenhurst**

"Our eldest has asthma and has never tolerated heat well. None of the schools she's attended have had A/C and only a few rooms had ceiling fans. She despised the large floor fans because she couldn't hear the teacher but without them she felt like she couldn't breathe." — **New Hartford**

"My children have ADHD, and one also has ODD and possibly ASD. They both struggle to function and focus as it is, but heat makes it nearly impossible. For my son it is almost intolerable and creates more behaviors. School starts for us on the 7th, and I am already praying that it could be cancelled due to the high temps."

— Mechanicville

I'm an educator in Buffalo Public Schools and every year in September, May, and June, my classroom consistently reaches temperatures of 90 degrees to 95 degrees. When this occurs, there is a notable uptick in student behaviors and a decrease in student achievement. I'm also a parent of two children in NYS public schools, and they complain to me nearly every day in those same months that they can't

concentrate at school due to the extreme temperatures in their classrooms. Some schools have created outdoor learning spaces to use during these months, but that's not any better as New York state consistently reaches temperatures in the upper 80-to-90-degree range with high humidity, so being outdoors for extended periods of time isn't ideal. It's time for air conditioning in all schools and classrooms across the state. Climate change is real and only getting worse. It's inhumane and unsafe to continue to expect students and teachers to work in these conditions."

— Buffalo

"On Thursday, May 12th, my classroom ranged from 77–80 degrees all day. On Friday, May 13th, it reached 81 degrees."

— Carthage

"My son is 17 and is in BOCES what used to be called Diesel Mechanics, so in the morning he goes to regular high school. He cannot wear shorts, so he sweats and turns red. I think it's terrible that our kids can go into a public library and get relief but not our schools. Heck even the local Walmart has air conditioning, most homes have A/C now."

— Iroquois

"My daughter's classroom temperatures currently (May 2022) exceed 90 degrees at BPS 64. In September 2021, I reported temperatures in excess of 106 degrees in her math classroom and the administration called me a liar. She will be attending school with a thermometer and a camera for the remainder of the school year." — **Buffalo**

"My son's classroom goes up to 88 degrees in a 6:1:2 class with children with medical disabilities." — **Hicksville**

"I have multiple kids. One in elementary and she always complains that she's hot and is covered in sweat when I pick her up. My high school kids sit in classrooms that are around boiler rooms and say it's unbearable even putting fans in rooms does not help. Also sports in the gym. My girls play volleyball and it's so hot in the gym. You add in players and all parents during games and staff these poor kids!" — **Cato Meridian**

"My daughter attends the Dunkirk Intermediate School. This school has three floors and windows that only open a few inches (for safety reasons). My daughter's class is on the third floor. The temperature up there was disgusting. Well into the 90's. How are children supposed to learn when it's that hot? No air flow, only one fan provided by the school. Not healthy for students or the teacher." — **Dunkirk**

"My daughter ended up in the nurse last year very red hot and exhausted. I would feel better knowing I was not sending my children into an oven. The only place with A/C is the administration and nurse? That is not fair for the students and teachers. Anything over 80 indoors is unsafe."

— Pittsford

"My own children in elementary and middle school have no A/C. It's 100 heat index outside can't imagine what it feels like inside. How can anyone concentrate, fix the A/Cs that we budgeted for." — **Schalmont**

"New Hartford Central School District can only afford air conditioning for its second-story classrooms. This is disgusting, cruel and unfair treatment of our children and teachers. The answer is, 'The first floor is a safety concern.' That's great, but there is more than one way to skin a cat. Utica schools just installed schoolwide A/C units. My child has extreme heat sensitivity and could end up hospitalized. It's time for a change." — **New Hartford**

"My three daughters attend Hillside Grade School in New Hyde Park, Nassau County Long Island. ... I am writing to you as a very concerned parent about the extreme heat conditions at their school. I spoke to their principal twice about this situation, and she just told me there is nothing she can do. ... There must be a solution for these children, and I wondered if you knew the best outlet to help solve this concern. This past week the heat conditions in the school were very hot and unbearable for my kids. One of the teachers has a thermometer in the classroom, and it was 83 degrees one day ... and 87.5 degrees another day. We all are entitled to the same education, but my kids are at a disservice because they cannot focus or learn in the extreme heat conditions."

— **New Hyde Park-Garden City**

"My son is in elementary school. The conditions in his school, I feel, are child abuse. Temperatures reached 90 degrees and climbed higher in the school. Students are masked, sitting in plexiglass with no air conditioning and zero ventilation. How many children went home sick today and are showing signs of heat exhaustion? I personally decided to keep my son home today for fear of that happening to him. Sadly, I can't keep him home every day and I am truly worried about the health of him and his peers." — **New Hartford**

"For years, my children's district has battled with brutal temperatures in the building. Both my son and daughter would come home every year covered in sweat, and sometimes with migraines or feeling nauseous. This year is no exception — both are at middle school and the high school. When asked how their first day back at school was today, the main response was 'hot' and that they spent the day drenched in sweat and that it was uncomfortable. Eleven years and nothing has been done to relieve their schools of excessive heat!" — **New Hartford**

"As a teacher, it is very hard to have any kind of movement because it can make you dizzy, and excessively sweat. I feel overheated. I have gone home nauseous, more fatigued than ever, and it is very hard to plan or grade anything

feeling this way. My daughter is in the same district in an elementary building, on the 2nd floor, with no air flow or AC and came home soaked in sweat, hot and feeling sick. I don't want to even send her in to school but have no choice because I have to go in to teach in this. ... We really need to not be in this kind of working condition and kids are not safe with these temps!" — **Saugerties**

Educators highlight the inequity of having air conditioning in some classrooms, but not others.

"In my district, the high school and junior high have A/C. The elementary school, where I teach, has A/C in limited parts of the building which had been added on to the original structure. Administrators have window units. Those of us who teach in the original section of the building (about 75 of us) just have to deal with the heat. We are in a three-story brick building and have been promised A/C for years. Last year, the district added a "cooling unit" but it rarely works and is not the same as A/C — doesn't stand a chance against the heat. Loud fans that attempt to cool us down are so loud that instruction is interrupted. Kids are so hot; they lay their heads on the desk and are exhausted. Over the years, I've brought in a bottle fan that mists the kids as they work when it gets unbearable. The fact that some of us teach in this while those across the building and in the same district have A/C really heats up our resentment. Plain and simple — unequal and unfair."

— **Hudson**

"There are a few areas in the building that have A/C units. This includes the library, the main office where clerical and administration works from. Running fans inside the classroom just circulates the hot air. The only relief is when the lights are off and when water breaks are taken every 10 minutes. The temperature in the classroom almost reached 90 after taking a reading from the room's thermostat."

— **Patchogue-Medford**

"We don't have air conditioning. My room temperature can rise to over 90 degrees. Other rooms in our building, especially on the 2nd and 3rd floor, get even hotter. Rooms with windows facing east are the worst!" — **Syracuse**

"My classroom is one of the very few in my school without A/C. The morning sun causes the room to heat up right away. When I walked in this morning, it was already 82 degrees (at 7:30 am). You can imagine how it felt by noon when the real feel was 95 degrees outside. We weren't able to go out for recess because of the real few so we had to stay in — even more brutal. We need relief. It's inhumane. How are my students supposed to stay focused in this heat? Also, the other three classes in my grade level have A/C. That's not equitable." — **Clarkstown**

Temperature (°F)

	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure and/or Strenuous Activity

■ Caution
 ■ Extreme Caution
 ■ Danger
 ■ Extreme Danger

Humidity exacerbates temperatures, creating a "real feel" that is sometimes several degrees higher than what the thermometer says. Prolonged exposure to these conditions can cause heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

"Over the course of the past four days my room has reached a temperature of 85-87 degrees. I get to school early and open all the windows (unpaid) to try and have my fans blow in some cool air. I also shut the shades, lights and projector down and nothing works. I am left dizzy, nauseous and uncomfortable as I try to teach my students who I know are feeling the same way. I have classes sizes up to 27 (14-year-olds) squeezed into a hot room. This is disgusting."
— Syracuse

"First day for teachers, air temperature sickening. Only air in certain classrooms with window units. Kids come in two days, what is going to happen? Air is not throughout building unfortunately."
— Southampton

"Half of our building has A/C ... so while my students are pouring sweat through masks and unable to focus on anything, the kids across the hall are shivering."
— Rochester

"I taught for 31 years on the second floor of a building where the class across the hall had an air conditioner. They had the door closed, stopping any cross ventilation. Once a parent requests an A/C, that class gets one and that teacher gets all the kids who need A/C forever, while the rest of us sweat. ... Just not fair!"
— North Bellmore

"I was in the same room for 24 years, on the East side of Kenmore East High School. The room is also located on the third floor and was at times, in August-September and May-June, unbearable. I just moved across the hall two years

ago and there is a considerable difference on most days. The temperatures in room 319 would exceed 95 degrees and there was no air flow so you were lucky if the rooms across the hall had open doors so you could put a fan in. The doorway to try and bring in some cool air, however the way the rooms are situated the air comes into the hallways and passes right by the rooms on the east side. ... There is rarely a cross breeze! I have a much better heat situation now being on the other side of the building, but I feel awful for those on the east side! They also use our building for summer school, and they use the 3rd-floor rooms? Not sure how the teachers and students survive that. I have been in those rooms in the summer, and temperatures must exceed 95 on many days. Fans can only do so much."

— Kenmore-Tonawanda

"I've been in my current building for 26 years, and in three different classrooms. During the summer months, the temperature inside of my classroom has been unbearable (sticky and stuffy conditions). The students and I are literally drenched in sweat. We struggled to breathe and were in a lethargic state. Students would put their heads down and not want to complete assignments. I've expressed my concerns over the years. One side of the building (back of building), the classrooms have A/C units in their windows. How unfair to have half the building suffer while the other half experiences some reflect."

— Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk

"I am a music teacher and for whatever reason, I am one of the few teachers who don't get A/C. I have heard it's because the students are only with me for 40 minutes, but I am in there all day. I have a thermometer in my room that reaches the high 80's every day. I deal with heat exhaustion and headaches when it is this hot and sweat uncomfortably (even on normal days). There should be a law to protect us. I am afraid I or a student will faint from the heat, let alone learn anything! Just curious about what to do." — Scarsdale

"Yesterday and today were brutal. I drank two water bottles yesterday but still came home nauseous and had heat stroke. Today I drank the equivalent of almost 4 and I was still nauseous at the end of the day. Students are lethargic, irritable, and unwilling to do the fun activities I planned because it is 95+ in my high school room. Contrastingly, at the middle school where I start my day, my room has air conditioning, and my students were much more responsive and participated much more." — Patchogue-Medford

"Some classrooms get equipped with an air conditioner when there is a student in it who has a particular medical condition. Others get a unit if the teachers themselves pursue their own 504 plan. Something HAS to be done. Sure, New York can get brutally cold at times. That doesn't mean it never gets brutally hot and humid as well." — Pine Bush

"I teach 5th grade on the 2nd floor of a building that was renovated and set up for air conditioning. They put A/C in the first-floor gym, offices and some 1st floor classrooms. The 12 classrooms on 2nd and 3rd floors are unbearable spring and fall ... 85-92 degrees. I taught summer school last July. It was dangerously hot. We had two box fans to circulate the hot air." — Rochester

"I am a PE teacher and all we have is two window box fans in our very hot gym. In the spring summer and fall it is scorching hot and in the winter, we are teaching in winter jackets and gloves because it is so cold." — Port Washington

"One of the classrooms I teach in is a classroom that is in the middle of the high school building. There are no windows to the outside and we keep the door closed for safety. There is rarely any air flow in the classroom and now as it is getting hotter the room is often over 74 degrees inside, often close to 80 degrees. Students cannot learn effectively. They complain about the heat and fall asleep. We have asked for fans and were told by the head of maintenance that they do not provide fans, but they are not opposed to us having one in the room. The school does have wings with free-standing air-conditioning units and windows to the outside." — Schenectady

"Temperatures in my classroom often exceed 85 degrees at the beginning and end of the school year. I often leave

work with a bad headache and total exhaustion. My students are lethargic and unmotivated in these extreme temperatures. My building is partially air-conditioned creating resentment between the haves and the have nots. Year after year I request air conditioning and I'm told for various unclear reasons it is not possible. My students deserve better." — Port Washington

"The summer season hasn't even begun, and my classroom temperature already reached 89 degrees on Monday, May 31, 2022. I am a FACS teacher in a kitchen classroom, and I didn't even turn the ovens on. When my students begin cooking/baking, the classroom temperature is higher. I have submitted a medical note from my doctor for my condition and the district gave me a 'cooling scarf' to wear. They said to me I will never see an air conditioner in my classroom. This is just terrible." — Port Washington

"In the warmer months my second-floor classroom reaches temperatures as high as 88 with 65 percent humidity. That is with three fans in the window and three standing fans in the room, all of which I have purchased. This first week of school the temperature has maintained 86 to 88 degrees throughout the day with high humidity. Our district passed a 22-million-dollar capital project including things like new pavement, new auditorium seating, new exterior siding, but fails to address any air ventilation or temperature needs. The classroom environment should be the number one area of focus." — Saugerties

"In the last 2 days, my classroom has had a heat index of 100 between the heat and humidity. The air temp is 90 by 6th period. These temps are happening with four fans running in the room. Both students and teachers are feeling ill, having difficulty focusing, clothes wet and sticking to them. It is like teaching in a sauna." — Saugerties

Aging infrastructure is also identified as a barrier to maintaining healthy temperatures.

"No A/C in a building that is over/approaching 100 years old, but clerical and administration have A/C ... I am on the third floor where it has been at least 95 degrees+ the first week of school. The school supplies NOTHING — no fan, A/C, etc." — Amherst

"My classroom is on the second floor facing the courtyard in a block of classrooms that we often refer to as 'the pizza oven.' I have had to bring in four fans I paid for with my own money and keep the shades down and the lights off during days over 80 degrees just to keep my room under 90 degrees. It should also be noted that my room is where students with disabilities take their spring Regents exams with accommodation. Our school is old and so is its power and HVAC system, but we have to do better." — Argyle

"I work in a 100-year-old brick building on the 2nd floor. Some rooms have an A/C window unit, some do not. This is my first year in this building and I just shelled out \$350 of my own money to get a window unit that will not completely work for the size of my room because it was all the stores had. We have had 90-degree days. I keep the shades down to keep out the sun, I open windows in the morning to let the cool air in and shut them when it gets hot. With the A/C unit we can manage to get the room to the mid 80s if we are still and quiet. What will we do in June?! I give every student water bottles and they are chugging them like they were lost in the desert. There is little learning happening when days get like this. Temperatures rise, children sleep, and illnesses thrive." — **Syracuse**

"First two days of school, it was 90 degrees in our classroom, third day, 85. On top of that, in order to open our windows, you must climb on a counter or get help to open them because they are too hard. When you do open them, it strains your back." — **Webster**

"We have an older building with radiators that are not calibrated throughout the building and varying levels of functioning air conditioners in each room. At times, the radiators are blasting although it is 70 degrees outside, leading to staff simultaneously turning on air conditioners to cool off. Other rooms don't have adequate heat, and some don't have working air conditioners. Staff open windows as well to try to adjust temperatures — and we were also required to do this during COVID — which then led to space heaters appearing in the cold rooms. It's an inconsistent hodgepodge of realities with no clear solution except coping with these wild swings from cold, to hot, to humid conditions. Besides the impacts on student learning and poor working conditions, goals to address climate change and energy efficiency are thwarted too." — **New York City**

"In this almost 100-year-old building, the rooms, halls, cafeteria, everywhere but the offices SWELTERED over the last two days of 90-plus heat. I walked into the art room and immediately thought to myself, this is dangerous for the teacher to be in here all day. There is no accommodation given by the district for the safe anchoring of window A/C units, nor are air movers distributed to classrooms. Almost every fan in the building has been brought from staff homes." — **Syracuse**

"Even when it's not hot out, as it was the day before, I can come into a classroom that is already eighty degrees in the morning. If a building is old, brick, has multiple stories and does not have air conditioning, then the window should open easily (without involving climbing), stay open and have screens on them! Heat and bees, not to mention student safety, are unacceptable conditions for staff and students." — **Webster**

"I work in an 80-year-old building. My classroom was 85 degrees with a portable 'air conditioner' in it. My colleague's room was over 90." — **Wappingers**

"Due to an antiquated heating system, I am often in classrooms that are excessively hot, hard to breathe, do not have a way of regulating temperatures, and as a result not conducive to learning." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"As a prevention educator for a nonprofit funded by OASIS, I have the privilege of teaching students across school districts in Washington and Warren counties. There are a few schools that come to mind when I think about them being uncomfortably hot. The one that takes the cake is Big Cross Middle School in Glens Falls. The building is old, and I think five stories. I remember how awful it was in May, and it wasn't even that hot outside yet." — **Glens Falls**

"The classroom that I teach in has only two windows that open. The classroom faces the south, so the sun beats down strongly on the windows. It's also closed in because it has a horseshoe face around it. There is no cross-ventilation. Temperatures get up to 98 degrees. I teach every student in the school and had a case last week where a student almost passed out. This is an issue that absolutely needs to be addressed." — **Central Islip**

"I am on the third floor of an old school building. The floor has no heat, and my classroom has an entire wall of windows. The room reaches temperatures of 110 degrees in the May and June months!" — **Elmira**

"In addition to no A/C, our building is undergoing a huge renovation. Eighty-nine degrees out, windows open, fans churning the hot air ... everything in the room is covered with a gritty black dust from the construction outside and on the roof." — **West Seneca**

"Our high school was built in 1929; there's no central air conditioning and a handful of rooms have window units. September 5 through 7, we had three days of 90 degree heat with a higher 'real feel.' On 9/7/23 the real feel was equivalent to 103 degrees. On all three days, athletic practices were postponed until after 6pm but teachers and students stayed in classes for the full day." — **Carmel**

"Our classroom is in the original building from 1963. It gets hot in the spring, summer, and fall. I believe it is lack of insulation and/or the old brick walls conducting heat. Well, this fall we started school in August for teachers, and that meant the kids' first day was 95 degrees. The temperatures for the past two days have had a 'feels like' temperature over 90 degrees with a heat advisory! The temperature reading in our third-grade classroom has been over 90 degrees for the past two days, and it's forecasted to be hot and rainy today 9/7, with the heat advisory lasting until 7pm. We have purchased fans, freeze pops, and offered shady spots at recess. We have blinds in our classroom, but some classes have old or broken blinds that do not pull down. We need air conditioners or cooling stations brought in for these students. Our students, staff, teachers and principals have been rockstars and continue to show their grit in the extreme heat!!! Something must be done!"

— **Beekmantown**

"The school classrooms get so hot, and the windows are the 50's style that hardly crank open, no breeze at all. When the class parents offered to buy a portable A/C unit, we were told they weren't allowed because it could lead to issues with carbon monoxide, but there is a school full of engineers that could properly install it. The rooms are unbearably hot, kids come home feeling sick from the heat."

— **West Seneca**

"It has been 90 degrees in the classroom and the windows do not open without seeking help each day from our custodian. Two fans on and no relief from the high heat alerts. Breathing is difficult and there is no sense of relief."

— **Central Islip**

New York state law sets a minimum temperature for classrooms, but no maximum temperature, and teachers are quick to point out the absurdity of this.

"Working on the third floor of my school, which has no air conditioning, on days when the outside temperature is in the mid to upper 80s or higher with little to no breeze and in cases high humidity is unbearable. I used a thermometer to measure the temperature inside my classroom and it was 99 degrees. We had to keep the lights off and many students just sat at their desks with their heads down due to the heat. I come home with dehydration headaches on these days. It's not safe for students or staff to be in these conditions for prolonged periods of time. Districts and the state should consider including excessive heat in the definition of inclement weather days for buildings that do not have air conditioning." — **Syracuse**

"Ninety-five degrees clocked on hot days in my 2nd grade classroom. 95?? Would you keep your house that temperature? The school must be kept within a certain temperature range. If it falls below, we turn on heat, correct? We wouldn't be forced to freeze just because it's a cold day because it's inhumane to make kids freeze and teachers suffer. Why is it any different in the hot weather?" — Minisink Valley

"It is torture! It is inhumane to have people work under these conditions without air conditioning. It is brutally hot; no fans are provided. There needs to be a maximum temperature set by New York state for classrooms without air conditioning. It's the 21st century, we need to get up to date. There is no reason why air conditioners cannot be provided. If not, then dismiss us early like more districts in New Jersey." — **East Ramapo**

"It is irrational that we have students taking Regents exams in rooms that are 85 degrees. We have hundreds of students packed into a gymnasium on the hottest day of the year and expect stellar results? That's ludicrous. At the same time, our special education students are housed in smaller classrooms on the 3rd floor where they

may take 4.5-6.0 hours in an even hotter setting."

— **West Seneca**

"Classrooms lack A/C and ventilation. Do we really care about kids if these are their learning conditions?"

— **New York City**

"SED should definitely establish a 'maximum temperature' for classrooms. I once became severely dehydrated because my classroom was so hot and needed several IVs to replenish my lost fluids. With global warming, some classrooms, which are on the side of the building that the sun beats on for hours, become so hot it is unbearable for students. Many teachers have discussed this for years now; it is time to take action." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"There are many adults who will work from home or ensure that they get more breaks during the workday when the temperatures soar. How can we expect our children to do their work under the same conditions? As the temperatures rise, I can see the physical change in my students and can observe their demeanor change. It's crazy to expect our youngest citizens to work under extreme temperatures."

— **Webster**

"The temperature in my room can push 94 degrees and is easily 10 degrees hotter (if not more) than the hallway. The positioning of my room means the sun is bearing down on my room all day. And there is absolutely no cross breeze even with windows open. It is unbearable. In the winter, if the sun is shining my room can hit 80 degrees because of the greenhouse effect. There is absolutely no rational reason for these work conditions (and worse for the kid's ability to focus.) The state and districts want results ... but refuse to address working conditions. We took the Algebra Regents on a 90-degree day. The room was unbearable. It's 2022. Why have we not figured this out? There is a causal relationship between oppressive working and learning environments and success. Add on the requirement to wear masks during most of the past two years. It's unacceptable. I can't speak for other people, but it's no secret. There needs to be something done. The old adage 'well I had to do it as a kid so they should too' — that's garbage. The stakes are higher than they've ever been. It's not even safe. Dehydration. Kids have passed out. How is this acceptable?"

— **West Seneca**

"Schools need adequate heating for students to be comfortable enough for learning to occur. The same is true for adequate cooling in the beginning and end of the school year. There are some days that the air is stiflingly hot to the point where kids get drained and distracted. It is extremely difficult to teach on these days or maintain morale and motivation to do anything besides moving as little as possible. When environmental conditions are comfortable for students and teachers, the beginning and end of the school year can make a bigger impact and learning can be at its peak throughout the entire year." — **Central Islip**

"I teach PE and the gym gets really hot in the spring/early fall. Students complain about the heat, and we have a difficult time keeping them active during the whole block. While Regents exams were being administered in the gym, the digital clocks that were brought in scrolled between time and temp. Temps were over 90." — **West Seneca**

"Why schools don't have central A/C is beyond me, but they could at least acknowledge ... that it is too hot for students to be in school safely. Think about the students who walk home in 100-degree weather. What about those that have asthma or other breathing problems? It's unacceptable and something needs to be done." — **Saugerties**

"I teach on the 2nd floor without A/C. It was easily 95 degrees in the room by afternoon in my room today without STUDENTS! As I tried to set up my room, I felt fatigued and lightheaded. Adding 30 seniors to that room under those conditions is unhealthy for all. My classroom literally had the heat of a hot yoga studio!" — **Sayville**

"I teach orchestra in two elementary schools, and I also teach middle school/high school orchestra lessons. At one elementary school without air conditioning, we are in a very small classroom for lessons. Friday afternoon on 5/13 was extremely stuffy and hot in this room. There is no airflow and no air conditioning. There is a very large fan in the hallway, but that makes no difference for us in the room. I was playing piano to accompany my students, and it was so humid in there that my hands were sticking to the piano keys. I also felt lightheaded and dizzy as I was teaching." — **Shenendehowa**

"Our elementary building does not have A/C in the classrooms. This past week has been unbearable with my classroom temperature over 90 degrees. It was cooler outside than in, but due to the heat advisory the students couldn't go outside for recess. Kids could barely pick their heads off the desk. I have come home with a migraine every day this week. These working conditions are awful." — **Sayville**

"Today the temperatures with the humidity were up in the mid 90s. No fans, blinds drawn, and activity limited." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"It's been 83 and 84 degrees in the classroom for almost a week now. It's brutal, and I can just see the kids losing focus as the day goes on. Not to mention I am twice as tired, and I am struggling to stay and get my planning done. The box fans we were given just create more distraction and noise pollution. I also have a student with hearing loss, and this can't be good for their learning needs!! There needs to be regulations set or A/C in all school buildings. It's only getting worse with each passing year!" — **Shenendehowa**

"Please, I ask for a change not just for me as a teacher, but for those I am charged with educating! Who can learn when it is constantly over 80 degrees INSIDE? No one should even have to try." — **Pine Bush**

"My classroom temperature reached a whopping 89 degrees in the 'coolest' part of my room. The further away from the windows you went, the warmer it got. There's no A/C in my room. The lights were left off, three fans were on, the windows were left open, and the blinds were drawn, Students and I just sat at our desks as sweat poured from our faces." — **West Seneca**

"September 6th, first day of school for students and staff. My classroom temperature was 89 degrees with a 'real feel' temperature of 99 degrees as recorded by my iPhone app. Students were constantly complaining, sleepy, and agitated at times due to the heat. Inhumane conditions at best." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"My classroom is on the third floor of our high school. We do not have air conditioning or screens on our windows. On the first day of school, Sept. 6, my room's average temperature was 98 degrees for most of the day despite the 3 fans I brought in running on high. My 11th and 12th grade students (class size of 26-29) were as exhausted as was I and we also had to contend with swarms of yellow jackets coming in the windows." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"I teach in a science classroom that has southern facing windows and blackout shades. The temperature can get very hot. If the shades are open, the sun beats in the classroom from 7 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. If the shades are closed, the black shades absorb the energy and radiate it as heat into the room. One day, when surrounding districts closed early due to heat, but PBCSD remained open, I set up an activity in which students took the temperature of 5 locations in the room in Celsius (I teach science) and converted it to Fahrenheit. The average temperature of the room that afternoon was 106 F. This is not uncommon in June. My district has never closed or dismissed early due to excessive heat." — **Pine Bush**

"It was 104 degrees in my office and all through the school." — **Rochester**

"In the past we've had students pass out and develop serious headaches. We have pregnant and elderly teachers who are told 'there's nothing we can do.' This is unacceptable. I'd invite any lawmaker or administrator into one of these classrooms for a full day, or even a period, to experience what it's like to have to deal with oppressive air quality while trying to stay focused and learn. Many of our students simply don't deal with it, and they stay home on days and weeks when temperatures are forecast above 80, leading to a negative effect on already strained attendance levels, especially toward the end of the school year when students are preparing for their end of year exams." — **Rochester**

"My classroom was at 93 degrees for the last three days. You can feel a wall of hot air as you walk by my room. The temperature was actually cooler outside than in my room. I have three fans trying to circulate air. To expect teachers

and students to function, learn, and teach under these conditions is unacceptable." — **Saugerties**

"For the past three days, I have been working in a second-floor classroom with 23 seven- and eight-year-old students in temperatures ranging from 84 degrees to the highest, today at 93 degrees. It has been extremely challenging. I am normally a very healthy person, but the conditions are making me have breathing issues, headaches and stomach uneasiness." — **Saugerties**

"While there is not an easy solution to this serious issue, it is necessary for all of us to act in solidarity to bring attention to this matter and request our legislators to support legislation that requires classroom temperatures to be kept at a safe level. There are offices in our buildings that have air conditioning. Classrooms should be the priority. That's where the children are!" — Saranac

Educators also note other troubling paradoxes about the situation.

"The temperature in my room was well over 90 degrees. I have a service dog. They wouldn't even allow a service dog to work under the temperature in which my students and I were asked to work. It was inhumane." — **Lindenhurst**

"If I left a child in a car that was 88 degrees, with a mask on and tiny cracked window, there would be a problem and the Administration for Children's Services would be notified." — **New Hyde Park**

"People break into cars to save dogs because the temperature is over 100 degrees inside. Everyone is fine with that; even vilifies the dog/car owner. But our children and teachers are in classrooms with 25 other people in an upstairs classroom during a four-day heatwave that tops the 'real feel' at 104 degrees!" — North Babylon

"We outlawed sweatshops decades ago but continue to treat our classroom conditions like it's the 1800s. It is absolutely inhumane to teach in these circumstances." — **Northport East Northport**

"Not taking into account the humidity, it was at least 83 degrees in my classroom today, and that was with the door open. Administration has air conditioning in our district, but the classrooms have none. If education is about the kids learning, why are kids placed in such environments where learning is impossible? One year, I proctored a Chem Regents exam where the heat was so extreme the calculators stopped working! If an electronic device can't work, how do we expect a student to?" — **Saugerties**

"Today, 9/6/23, the first day of school, the thermostat read 87 degrees. The usual excitement of 8-year-olds was missing. They were lethargic, and melting. It was too hot for outdoor recess, so they got to play in the classroom with air! This classroom environment is child abuse! Prisons even

have air conditioning! Do better!" — **Bay Shore**

"I am on the top floor, overlooking an asphalt parking lot. I have two small windows in my classroom that open out in a flip motion. The airflow is non-existent. I routinely have 28 to 30 6th graders packed into the classroom. The heat and stuffy air are oppressive. It is extremely unhealthy and not conducive to learning. As a profession, we are always talking about making sure all kids have an even playing field. This does not seem equal at all when a neighboring school district has central air. Our kids are sitting in classrooms topping 95 degrees, and they are expected to perform the same as their air-conditioned counterparts. Even worse, in May and June students are taking standardized tests in the heat when other kids are breathing comfortably in climate-controlled environments." — **Carmel**

"There is almost zero relief with having the windows open. When the windows are open, we have to close the shades because we are on the one side of the building that gets the sun all day. From sunrise to sunset, the sun hits it. To try to combat the lack of airflow, we have industrial fans in the hallway that just blow dust and hot air around but also produce a constant hum which causes pressure to build up in our heads and not to mention the noise they produce. They are so loud that we can't hear each other so students and staff are forced to speak in loud voices. Kids keep complaining they have headaches and are dizzy. We send them to the nurse, but the nurse sends them back because there is not much they can do." — **Syracuse**

"While teaching this week and trying to make my first impression on my students, the temperatures in the class were so high I was sweating profusely as were they. All handouts felt moist to the touch and were sticking to their arms and tearing easily after being handled. In 22 years in the classroom, this was the most uncomfortable I ever felt. I also have three fans in the room which not only muffled any student responses but weren't much help in keeping the room cool. Please consider air conditioning for our schools. It's the same as not providing heat for our children in the dead of winter." — **Central Islip**

"Why has it taken so long to address this problem? I taught my entire 34-year career in a non-air-conditioned room/school. Yes, often room temps in both September and June rose into the 90s. I'm sure the incarcerated in New York state are living in climate-controlled prisons. It's shameful and needs to be fixed." — **Suffern**

"I'm a Social Worker in the Syracuse City School District and it's so warm in my office that students find it difficult to meet with me. I'll walk with them around our school building instead. The unfortunate part is nothing personal or confidential can be discussed as we're in the hallways. We desperately need air conditioning throughout Grant Middle School, in Syracuse, New York!" — **Syracuse**

"The first two days of school have been brutal. Yesterday my classroom was 87 degrees and today it topped 90. This is inhumane for my students and me ... to be in a sweltering classroom for six hours." — **Patchogue-Medford**

"This is also an equity issue. Students are entitled to the same learning environments as any other students, whether it's with students in other parts of the state, the county, or even within the district. ... City schools are already at a disadvantage for many reasons and something like air quality in schools, something with an obvious and simple solution, should not be allowed to continue. This is an incredible disservice to our students."
— **Rochester**

"Extreme heat is real! It used to last a couple weeks during the school year ... now it is all of September, October, May and June. After 35 years of teaching, I have seen the difference in our schools and classrooms. The rise in medical issues that the students have is real as well. Couple that with teaching in a classroom that is easily close to 90 degrees is awful and detrimental to all. Please find a way to put the money into schools for heat and air conditioning. We have made our sporting fields across the state a priority ... it is now time for ALL STUDENTS and TEACHERS to learn in a healthy environment. That should be a priority."
— **Amherst**

"I immediately heard from numerous educators stating the situation (was) unsafe. The high temperatures killed classroom fish, melted crayons, caused beautiful bulletin board displays to fall off the walls. Worse yet, children and faculty had to endure sweltering temperatures."
— **Saranac**

"It was 95 in my classroom on Sept. 7. Students were dripping sweat on their desks and papers. The elevated temperature coupled with relative humidity made it unbearable in the building." — **Ravena Coeymans Selkirk**

"Not just classrooms but even cafeteria and kitchens! Some kitchens don't even have windows and the fans they give just blow the hot air around. Even students just walking by can feel the heat pouring out. And custodial and kitchen staff often must wear pants and uniform shirts which aren't very forgiving in the heat and humidity. I have left school and peeled my clothes off from sweat." — **Port Byron**

"My classroom is on the second floor of a cement building built in the 1960s. My room is not air conditioned, and when the outside temperature is above 85, it becomes uncomfortable. For the first two days of this school year the outside temps were above 90 and my room feels dangerously hot. Once my room heats up, it does not cool down over night. The cinderblock walls retain the heat. When I arrive at 7am, it is still above 80 in my classroom and then continues to climb as the outside temps rise. The heat is more than uncomfortable, it is oppressive. Students, teachers, and support staff are expected to be active and

engaged despite the dangerous temperatures. I placed a digital thermometer on my desk today. It reached 91 degrees and humidity almost reached 60 percent. The 'real feel' is over 100 degrees! This is an injustice because we all know schools in more wealthy areas are climate controlled and comfortable." — **Saugerties**

"92 degrees today. Construction on the outside, so windows covered in plastic. Two fans did not cut it."
— **Saugerties**

Excessive heat has been an ongoing problem that only intensified when educators were dealing with COVID-19 protocols during the height of the pandemic.

"My classroom is located on the top floor of our elementary school. There are six classrooms there, with no air conditioning. The temperature and humidity make it unbearable to learn and to teach. This has been a problem for years, and now we're wearing masks on top of it all. All administrators have their own offices with air conditioning. We have been fighting for years to get it and they won't hear about it. We have 25 students and other adults in the hot and humid rooms. We are dripping with sweat inside of our masks. If basic needs aren't met, children can't learn. Can NYSUT help? We are suffering so ..." — **Ardley**

"Classroom is 85 at 10:30 am 06/07/21 with masks (most kids aren't vaccinated)." — **Horseheads**

"The thermometer in my classroom is at 86 degrees before 10 a.m. I leave school daily with a headache and nausea, my clothes stick to my body because they are soaking wet. I developed severe back acne from sitting in my own sweat for seven hours. We are not permitted to use fans this year because of COVID, and breathing our own hot air into masks makes it worse than years prior."
— **Hendrick Hudson**

"I teach in multiple classrooms on the second floor where the heat rises to over 80 degrees. As a thyroid cancer survivor, I did not think I would have to ask for a portable air conditioner, but I did. Once I knew we would be full time teaching with masks, I received a letter from my doctors. All classrooms on our second floor have poor air circulation. My understanding was that part of the COVID money was to be used to update our ventilation system. It hasn't happened yet. Meanwhile, we sweat, while people at district office are in air conditioning." — **Spencerport**

"Ninety degrees on 6/7/2021 and 6/8/2021. School is in session until 6/26/2021. We have 13 more days to teach. Teachers and students must wear masks and cannot use fans facing inward. It's so hot. Students and teachers are getting headaches and feeling nauseous. There is no air conditioning in the school except in the Main Office."
— **Bedford**

"We have had to wear masks during this heat wave. We have no air conditioning in our rooms, and the faculty room air conditioner was broken. By the second day of the heat wave, my room was 89.7 degrees." — **Hendrick Hudson**

"There is no A/C in our elementary school in East Coldenham within the Valley Central School District. The kids are overheated going to the nurse and the mask situation is intolerable." — **Valley Central**

"Today the temperature in my middle school science classroom reached 92 degrees in the afternoon. I was not allowed to turn on any fans for my masked students. I had multiple students who were kept home due to the heat, and more who were sent home due to heat-related illness." — **Fayetteville-Manlius**

"With three weeks left in the worst school year ever (COVID-19), our classroom (which is not air conditioned) has reached 90 degrees inside. All students, teachers, and staff are required to wear masks when inside any building, unless they are eating or drinking (and not talking). We are all sitting here sweating, with puddles forming in our masks, making it feel even hotter. The lights are off, the blinds are drawn with windows closed (it was blowing in hot outdoor air). Students have their heads down and have headaches. Limited learning and limited instruction can be done. The fans that used to be in my room were confiscated during last summer and haven't been returned despite requests to my principal and maintenance department. This is absolutely the worst classroom conditions I have had to teach in, to date." — **Shenendehowa**

"We are working in extremely hot classrooms with no air conditioning or Hepa filters. There are no fans allowed as per the district. Teachers are sweating trying to comply with COVID-19 mask restrictions but are having heat strokes from the lack of air! Finally, teachers were told we cannot have our own personal refrigerators inside our classrooms. These issues are making the working conditions very difficult for teachers to focus on and do their jobs. We need change." — **Elmont**

And while September was one of the hottest openings on record, temperature maximums remain a concern year-round, including May and June when schools are wrapping up state testing.

"While students were taking final exams today, we had 40 students in a double classroom. Classroom thermometers were reading 87 degrees. I witnessed another student on our floor being walked to the nurse because they were feeling dizzy due to the heat (during a final exam)." — **Hamburg**

"Every June students take the mandatory state Regents exam and every June the classrooms are sweltering. Children are already stressed and then they come to sit for three hours in a hot box. They can't focus as their arms stick with sweat to the desk and their legs to the seats. Their papers get blown around by some lame fan that just blows hot air from side to side and provides no relief."

— **Patchogue-Medford**

"Temperatures in my classroom regularly reach 88 degrees in September and June." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"88 degrees Fahrenheit plus 91 percent humidity = 113 Heat index in my science classroom. Students are listless and irritable. Focus is limited. Cognitive processing is slow. We're grinding it out, because Regents and AP tests wait for no one." — **Westhampton Beach**

"Today students taking math exam in cafeteria were getting nauseous and going to the nurse's office ... for ice ... it was stagnant air, sticky soupy gross." — **Hamburg**

"I work on the 2nd floor of an elementary building. Within the months of September, May and June, we often see intense heat in our area for prolonged stretches. Our classroom is consistently 10 degrees warmer than the air temperature outside, with little to no air flow within the classroom. During one stretch in June last year, we had a week of 85-to-90-degree weather. I would come in at 7 a.m., two hours before the kids would come in, after a night where cooling down COULD be possible, only to find the temperature in the classroom was measuring between 85 and 88 degrees ... BEFORE the day had even started! It is not a safe learning environment for students or adults, and should be addressed!" — Brockport

"I am an art teacher in the Central Islip school district. Although I love my job, teaching in the extreme heat is unbearable at times. My windows face the east and the sun just pounds on us. Although my plants seem very happy my students often ask me why it's so hot in the room. I have a thermometer and it is almost always at 80 or above in the months of May, June and September. I am often dizzy and nauseous because of the heat." — **Central Islip**

"Final exams today that I had to proctor. Windows open three fans in the room and my room hit 84.5 degrees. The students kept asking to take a break just to get some relief in the air-conditioned hallway and get more water. These poor rooms where children are backed in where it's that hot and add all the body heat to the feeling of staleness and mugginess makes it feel 10 times hotter." — **Hamburg**

"May, June, and September temperatures are often so hot at times that students are sweating in their seats as teachers post fans in the room in hopes of some relief when all they really do is move the hot air around. This year's opening has been even more brutal. Students' and teachers' sweat dripped down their foreheads and bled through their shirts and dresses. Many lethargic and complaining of headaches; visibly hot and 'tired' as temperatures rose in the classrooms. Many rooms registered mid to upper 80's and some into low 90's!!! Some of us went out and bought ice pops to give out in each class feeling so bad for the students in our rooms. My own children came home from school hot, tired and moody from the excessive temps in school. Classrooms this hot are absolutely abusive and need to be addressed with funding for solutions. And it can't be a five-year plan kind of fix, it needs to happen now."

— Brentwood

"Second-floor classroom. Little to no air circulation. Windows open. We have our own fans to try and help. Today the kids took a math exam and the temps reached 87 in our double room. It was oppressive and everyone was drenched in sweat. We took pictures of our thermometers."

— Hamburg

"I walked in on my first day of school today at 7:30 a.m. to see my thermostat already at 82 degrees. By the end of the day, my room was 87.5 degrees!! I live in CNY! With windows open, shades lowered, and three fans going. It is absolutely terrible that anyone could think adults or children could focus or be happy in such conditions. It's cruel." — Westhill

"Today (May 31) the outside temperature reached 88 by days end. By noon it was 80. I have 3 total plugs in my room, all on the same wall so even with 3 fans it is stifling. Tomorrow, we expect storms, and the humidity will make our papers stick to arms." — Addison

"I have to keep the white shades down in my room to reflect the sunlight that beats down on my room ALL DAY. If I don't the room gets excessively hot. Sometimes over 100 degrees. This past Wednesday students took a Regents exam in my room, and it was well over 100 degrees. This needs to be addressed." — Buffalo

"On Monday, June 7, students were given the NYS 4th Grade Science Test in a 100-degree classroom and were expected to perform. These conditions are deplorable, and the district did nothing to remedy it." — Mount Vernon

"My classroom is in 80-90 during the heating season. Once the temperature rises above 90 my classroom remains hot. Students cannot learn under these conditions." — Yonkers

"It was over 88 degrees in my classroom before 10:30 a.m. this morning. At any given time, I have between 25 and 32 humans in my class. This heat is unbearable, oppressive, and is simply stifling learning. I, as an adult, cannot

keep my focus in such intense heat; how are our middle schoolers expected to? We tell kids all year that we love them, support them, and want them to feel safe, and then turn around and have them sit in 90+ degree rooms for eight hours and expect them to feel supported and ready to learn." — Lawrence

"The classroom is hot enough, but when my students go to PE and raise their body temperatures even higher, there is no relief in our classroom. I have never had so many students with exercise-induced asthma in my 20-year teaching career." — Mohanasen

"My music classroom is located directly above the boiler room in my building with temperatures regularly sitting between 85 and 93 degrees. ... I do not have anything in my classroom to move air around, nor is there a system in place to introduce cool air. The only source of cooling I have available is to open the windows, which does not always guarantee a breeze. As of late, due to the wildfires in Canada and the smoke that's been making its way south, I now CANNOT open the windows due to the air quality and my asthma." — Niskayuna

"My room was over 86 degrees today! I teach 2nd grade! The kids were complaining all day! It's only May 31!"

— Lawrence

"The temperature today (June 16, 2022) is muggy with high humidity. Yesterday was also unbearable. The kids don't even feel like going outside to run around because there is no break from the heat. Our classroom is on the 3rd floor. It would be awesome to have the kids get their physical activity by enjoying recess and being active; however, they don't even feel like running around knowing how hot they will be when we return to our classroom. There is no cross breeze in the classroom as the classroom door and windows are not across from each other. It makes the room stifling hot. Air conditioning is a must with climate change and global warming." — Hamburg

"I work in classrooms on the third floor of our middle school. The temperature in the mornings is at least as hot as it is outside, which can be 85 to 86 degrees. The heat only increases as the day goes on, often into the 90s. We have students trying to take final exams in severe heat, and it is extremely difficult for them to focus and do their best when they are sweating and overheated. Staff are frustrated and exhausted dealing with the temperatures. Our classrooms are small enough that a window unit in each room can cool the rooms very nicely. It seems as if it would be an easy remedy, and it is unacceptable and dangerous to the health of students and staff to work in such conditions, even on a short-term basis."

— Kenmore-Tonawanda

"I am a parent of a 10th and 6th grader. ... Today, 6/7/2021, it was 90 degrees. I had to pick my daughter up at lunch just so she could get some air and cool down. She texted me

from school saying she didn't feel well from the heat and the mask. When she got to the car, she was pale and sweaty! She said the upstairs rooms felt like 100! This is unhealthy and unacceptable! They are in school to learn, how can you learn like that? Especially with Regents approaching, the end of the year is very important!" — **New Hartford**

"I teach HS earth science in NYC. My school is one of the few not owned by the DOE but leased from someone who does not seem interested in maintenance. Every year my classroom becomes unacceptably warm and humid while rooms around me are freezing. I regularly send photos of a classroom thermometer." — **New York City**

"I have been teaching on the third floor of our building since 1997. Temperatures have been documented as going well into the 90s. Combine that with high humidity, no A/C, and fans that only push around warm air, and I end up with classes of kids who are sweaty and listless — sometimes for weeks, if September and June are hot enough. We have complained to administration for as long as I can remember, but there is never any change." — **Orchard Park**

"I have been teaching in the same classroom for 10 years. On extreme days from May through October the temperature gets to over 90 degrees. Windows cannot be open because it lets in the hot air from outside. This is unsafe for students and teachers." — **Ossining**

"The temperature situation in my classroom is past frustrating. Most of the time it is too hot! Even in the middle of winter, my students are sweating in my room because they can never set the temperature to a reasonable level. Even today, with the weather being nice, it is incredibly hot in my room. My students were taking an exam, and I could see the beads of sweat developing on all of us. It is never a conducive temperature for learning. I am consistently asking for temperature to be changed, but without any communication, I have no idea if that is being done." — **Lexington School for the Deaf**

"My classroom has been so hot the last three days that the chocolate in my desk is melting. I Googled at what temperature chocolate melts, and it is between 86 and 90 degrees. I have both of my windows open (they open to a courtyard, so we don't get much of a breeze), four fans going, the shades drawn (because my classroom gets sun for most of the day) and the lights off. We are literally melting in here. My kids cannot focus, and it's the time of year when we are doing a lot of end-of-the-year testing." — **Malone**

"I am retired. I taught Special Ed in the 1970s and 80s. There were some days in June that were insufferable. By 9 a.m., the children were listless and sweaty. I brought picnic thermoses full of ice

cubes to school, but that only lasted a while. It was terrible and there was no way to mediate the discomfort. No one in America should be subjected to extreme temperatures."

— **New York City**

"William Rawl Elementary School has been unhealthy and unsafe for our students and teaching professionals throughout the current excessive heat. The teaching staff has been forced to focus on keeping the children safe from heat fatigue and dehydration and not on educating. With President Biden's forecast of climate change only getting worse, this situation, on the shoulder sessions of our school years, will continue. I feel that some of the elected officials' focus should be on the safety and health of one of the country's largest populations ... students and teaching professionals/staff. I am comfortable that the paring down of fossil fuel consumption will still happen if a small portion of our elected officials time were focused on our nation's most valuable natural resource ... our children. Thank you and I anxiously await your well-thought response."

— **Lindenhurst**

"The high temperature in my classroom was up to 91 degrees today. Students sat in their seats with sick faces, sweat running down their brows, fanning themselves. This was not a day that was conducive not only to learning but to thinking straight." — **Saugerties**

"It was 95 in my classroom on September 7th. Students were dripping sweat on their desks and papers. The high temperature coupled with relative humidity made it unbearable in the building." — **Ravena Coeymans Selkirk**



EL-WISE NOISETTE

Often hallways are air-conditioned while classrooms are not. To address this, teachers purchase box fans with their own money and attempt to direct some of that cooler air into their rooms.

"My room is on the shady side of the building, and I am still roasting. The kids come in complaining and valuable lesson time is lost because they are just too hot and tired to pay attention." — **Saugerties**

"I spent time traveling from district to district, never knowing what the temperature was going to be in the classroom. If it was too hot, I could never get anything out of the students. If it was too cold, the same thing! Something needs to be done to make sure students have a safe and healthy environment to learn in."

— **Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES.**

"So far, the first two days of school my classroom has reached 91 degrees with a humidity of 62 percent, which means that it has a heat index or a feels-like temperature of 100 degrees. My last two periods have been brutal. Students not being able to pay attention and just being lethargic from being in the heat all day. It is impossible for students to learn and retain information in this environment." — **Saugerties**

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIALS

"As a data scientist working in public health, I know firsthand how deadly extreme heat can be. As a parent of elementary school age children in aging public schools without air conditioning, I am extremely concerned about the health and well-being of our kids and teachers and staff during heat waves like we are experiencing this week (9/7/23). Our schools need to become climate ready NOW!" — Beacon

"I am a NYSUT member, I work in the foodservice department. I am the cook/manager in an elementary school. I'm fully aware that kitchens are hot. Walking into my kitchen at 6:30 a.m., when no cooking equipment was even turned on, only the refrigerators and freezers with their compressors running, it was 82 degrees already. By the time I left for the day after full breakfast and lunch service, the thermometer on the wall read 90 degrees! My kitchen has no windows and no exterior doors. We are a staff of four and bring in our own purchased fans which basically move the hot air around. To add to all to this, one of my two kitchen exhaust fans blew at the end of the school year last year and wasn't even looked at. Assuming it was repaired over summer break, I turned it on when I came back in September to it not being repaired and burning up. To say it's hot in my kitchen would be an understatement!"

— **Wappingers**

"There are a few areas in the building that have A/C units. This includes the library, the main office where clerical and administration works from. Running fans inside the classroom just circulates the hot air. The only relief is when the lights are off and when water breaks are taken every 10 minutes. The temperature in the classroom almost reached 90 after taking a reading from the room's thermostat."

— **Patchogue-Medford**

"I teach at State Rd Elementary School without A/C in most of the buildings. The main office and library have A/C. The building holds onto the heat and humidity and for both the teachers and the students the experience is brutal. Even though today was under 80 degrees outside, the building was still very humid and hot. Our classroom doors swell and become stuck, and many things fall off the walls due to the humidity. Most rooms have multiple fans which increase the overall noise level in the classroom and make it hard to hear most students. Air conditioning in the whole building would allow for less distractions and a significantly more comfortable learning environment." — **Webster**

"The building is unbearable. I leave the building daily sick to my stomach and exhausted from the heat. Temperatures in classrooms reached 96 degrees today. Students looked unwell and so did educators." — **Utica**

"I was teaching in a fourth-grade classroom that exceeded 90 degrees. I dropped sweat onto the students' work and would take my shoes off under my desk and rest my bare soles on a freezer pack. Classrooms across the hall were 15 degrees cooler. I'd put my fan (which I had to provide) in the doorway to bring in the cooler air. It was impossible to teach or learn." — **Wappingers**

"I was advised by a FANUC representative during training that turning the robots we have in the lab on after it gets hot in the classroom will cause the hot humid air to condense on the electronics before they warm up and may cause damage. This isn't a problem in industry because they leave them on 24/7. I've been leaving the windows open and fans on so I can keep them running 24/7 but this is wasting a lot of energy and does not lower the heat to a conformable level. Last few semesters I protected them by running my own personal air conditioner in the classroom as a dehumidifier, emptying buckets of water each week into the drain. This was a temporary solution and is not sustainable, and not something faculty should have to do. I contacted the FFEECC about it before the COVID changes and they directed me to the state union's figures and research. High classroom temperatures significantly reduce test scores."

— **SUNY Erie**

"My classroom is near the blacktop. So, when the sun hits the blacktop, the classroom gets overheated. It makes it unbearable for the students. I try to take them outside to learn when there is a breeze. The district gave my class and others a fan along with three other purchased fans by myself, however all it does is blow hot air. It makes it difficult for my students and I to concentrate and actually learn. Temperatures have gone well into mid to upper 80's."

— **Westbury**

"My classroom is so hot during warm months because the A/C vent from the gym blows hot air right outside my window. It's at least 95 in my room. The kids can't focus. It's unbelievably uncomfortable and I am literally dripping with sweat." — **Lansingburgh**

“My classroom was at 82 degrees today. Others in the building hit 90. They have been telling us for years now that we are getting central air. It hasn’t happened yet. One administrator came around today to do a safety walk and took away the door chucks, and made people close their classroom doors ... locking in all the heat! We do not feel like we are treated like human beings.”
— Valley Central

“My temperature story is short and sweet. It is over 90° in my classroom. There is no A/C in my classroom. In fact, currently the only place in our school with A/C is the main office. There are a few other spaces in our building that have A/C but it is not working so that means students and teachers don’t have a place to get a reprieve from the extreme heat. I have three fans in my classroom that I purchased with my own money. It is truly unbearable in our school building in the heat.” — Syracuse

“The temperature of my classroom was around 90. There is very little breeze that comes. We have fans but the only thing it does is blow the hot humid air around. When the classroom gets that hot not only is it hot the humidity is unbearable. For three days I went home with a pounding headache and exhausted from the heat to where you feel sick. The kids ask me every day why can’t we have air conditioning. I responded by that is a very good question I wish I knew.” — West Seneca

“It is 88 degrees in my classroom with three fans and the shades completely down. My students are sweating and complaining about the heat. It is hard to learn in these conditions. We need change now.” — Patchogue-Medford

“The classroom is brutally hot. The air is actually suffocating, making it hard to breathe, and therefore, extremely challenging to teach. I also experience severe headaches and nausea because of the unbearable temperatures in the classroom.” — Patchogue-Medford

“Wednesday, 9/6, the temperature reached 88 degrees in my health classroom with three fans going. On Thursday, 9/7, the temperature hit 92 degrees with four fans going. The students and I tried our best. By the end of the day, several children had their heads down exhausted, and we were all sweating and tired.” — Shenendehowa

“Extreme heat during instruction and final exams is not conducive to optimal teaching from teachers, or learning/ test taking from students!! Please install AC units in our rooms!” — West Seneca

“It’s so hot in our school building that both students and staff are complaining of headaches and feeling sick related to heat exhaustion including myself. I am sweating in my room, and it makes it impossible to thoroughly teach or support students when it is so hot, they are complaining

and not paying attention. It has also been complicated when lately we have been unable to keep windows cracked or open when the air quality outside is also horrible.”

— Syracuse

“In several rooms in the Bretschger building ... we have experienced abnormally high temperatures. In the past, I sometimes had to move my class because of the heat inside this room. We run a portable A/C unit as well as open the windows. However due to the size of the room, we have been unable to ever cool it successfully. Besides the discomfort for instructors and students alike, I am very concerned about the Mechatronics equipment we have in the rooms. This equipment is very expensive, and I fear the heat can jeopardize the longevity of this equipment. For example, we have four FANUC robots valued at \$170,000. We have additional equipment in B104B valued at \$350,000. In addition, we began to use B202A and B202B rooms and these are also extremely warm as well. Opening the windows does not cool this room. We have been unable to control the heat in this room as well. It is a major concern for us in terms of safety with COVID-19, for both students and faculty. But also, the importance of the longevity of the expensive equipment for both Mechatronics and the CTE program in these rooms.” — Erie Community College

“I was sweating profusely while teaching. I literally had sweat dripping off my face. At one point it dripped onto a child’s paper, which was embarrassing for both of us and disgusting. The students asked that we open windows ... but while there was a rare breeze throughout the day, the sweating continued, and it led to flies entering the classroom. We do not have screens on the window. During my prep, I was unable to work because flies were circling my head and body. It was unbearable.” — Central Islip

“My classroom rises up to 80 degrees and warmer with the humidity. The school has A/C, but it only works in some locations. Very hard to teach and students to focus.”

— Albany

“My classroom is on the 3rd floor and faces southeast. I have the sun all day and absolutely no breeze whatsoever! My room has gotten up to 92 degrees with over 50 percent relative humidity! It’s oppressive. I have two fans in my room, but they don’t help. Plus, the fans are loud, and I have to project my voice over them! It’s exhausting! My students are lethargic, and I sweat profusely. It’s horrendous!”

— West Seneca

“The max temperature that the classroom thermostat reached was 86 degrees — in September.” — Longwood

“90 degrees to 93 degrees all day today (6/7/2021). All classrooms (12?) on the second floor were 90 degrees and above. One fully remote teacher had her computer shut down from heat.” — Katonah Lewisboro



EL-WISE NOISETTE

This classroom thermometer reads 95. Can you imagine learning new materials or taking an important exam under these conditions?

"The classrooms are so hot and muggy that the floors become sticky. Sweat just drips from you, and your clothes cling to you. It is hard to focus, and the students look listless and tired. Some classrooms feel like you are hitting a heat wall when you walk into them." — **Lindenhurst**

"I have been back in the classroom for 3 days. Each of those days have required me to bring multiple changes of clothes, including undergarments. I required a prescription medication to treat symptoms of my body sweating and heating too much in a damp, hot, moist environment. My room was well over the acceptable temperature for me to do my job effectively and my students to do theirs. Enough is enough. Help us." — **Central Islip**

"My classroom was 92 degrees on 9/5/23-9/7/23 and 90 degrees on 9/8/23. We were not allowed to go outside for recess. By the afternoon we were baking. It was sickening. I don't understand how is this ok? The mornings are bearable. Why don't we have a half day? The administrators who make the decisions are in air conditioning while we are left alone in the classroom. We have no choice and are forced to sit there while sweat drips off of us. No water or fans are supplied by the district." — **Wappingers**

"My classroom was 88.7 degrees yesterday. Today we started the day at 88 and have now reached 90.5 degrees. These are ridiculous working conditions. I have all four windows open and three fans blowing. The humidity was over 60%, so it was miserable. I feel sick to my stomach and exhausted but refuse to use a sick day the first week of school." — **Valley Central**

"Working on the second floor of an elementary building that does not have air conditioning in the classrooms is challenging. Heat rises so the rooms are even warmer than on the first floor. Temperatures inside the classrooms often reach upwards of 80 degrees. Activity and movement promote learning among elementary children, but it is stifled because moving creates higher body and classroom temperatures. Multiple fans do not provide relief from the high temperatures, and they increase the noise level in the room, making it hard for children to hear instruction. Students require additional breaks to fill water bottles, so they stay hydrated, which subtracts from time on task. The heat often causes nausea and lethargy in the students. I have multiple sclerosis, a disease in which heat greatly exacerbates my symptoms and disability. Although the ADA affords me the opportunity to request/receive an air conditioner as an accommodation, I was forced to reveal my condition in doing so. To me, this felt like a violation of my privacy. If the schools provided temperature control like the

majority of public workplaces, I would not have needed to share this information with my supervisors and my colleagues would not be aware that I have a medical condition. Moreover, my position requires me to travel to many classrooms which are not air conditioned." — **Webster**

"Today, the temperature in my classroom got to be over 90 degrees with no A/C. My students were very uncomfortable and had to refill their water bottles many times throughout the day to stay hydrated. I was even asked by one student if our classroom was going to be this hot tomorrow."

— **North Bellmore**

"I work in a special education classroom with students with severe disabilities. These students are not toilet trained and have very limited language capabilities. This is some of the children's first experiences at my school. They are required to stay in the classroom with windows and doors closed and are not allowed to go outside due to high temperatures when the temperatures are higher in the classroom. Reaching over 106 degrees in the classrooms. It is child abuse what these children have been experiencing."

— **Valley Central**

"As a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher with a classroom on the second floor of an old building, my kitchen classroom reaches a temperature of 90 degrees. During a food lab the temperature reached 97-98 degrees. The Port Washington administration stated in writing they will not accommodate my classrooms with air conditioning. At this point we are helpless." — **Port Washington**

"I am unable to work in my room in late spring, all through the summer and into the fall. I am on the top floor of our building with no air conditioning and little to no air flow. My doctor wrote me a note to have an air conditioner put in my room and I have to meet with the administration to talk about my ailments in extreme heat in order to be CONSIDERED for one. Seeing as I am a science teacher, I plan to use a thermometer daily to record the insane heat levels." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"My classroom has hit 84 degrees in recent years and 82 in the last couple of days. Although our windows are built for safety, there is little to no air flow as they open inward. Also, when the water fountains on our end of the building are no longer in use because of COVID and the water bottle refill station is distant from my room, the heat is incredibly oppressive. I am advocating for my health and my students' health when I say we desperately need air conditioning in our buildings." — **Frontier**

"Everyone is dripping in sweat down to our toes!"
— **Garden City**

"NYS needs to take action in mandating and coordinating the installation of centralized or window air conditioning in each classroom for the sake of our students and vulnerable adults. No one should be uncomfortable in a learning environment, let alone to the point of becoming sick."
— **Rochester**

"June 1, 84 degrees for the 2nd consecutive day. High School Science classroom. 83 degrees by 10:15, Friday, June 2. Science classroom TOO HOT!" — **Edmeston**

"I'm on maternity leave, but would like to share my story. I was in the same classroom for 20 years. My classroom happened to be along the black top parking lot. It was September and I was eight months pregnant. I remember having three fans in the classroom because the heat in the classroom was stifling. The windows hardly opened for safety reasons, so the air was trapped. We called the classroom the sweat box because you literally walked in my room and started sweating. All the classrooms on that side of the building, both first and second floor were sweat boxes — May, June and September, October. The weather patterns have changed over the years, so the heat lingered through these months. The heat plus being pregnant was taking a toll. I finally brought in an indoor thermometer one of the hot days to see how hot my room was. I'm not kidding, it read 101 degrees! I went to my principal and told her if I didn't get into a cooler classroom soon, I was going to pass out. If she couldn't provide that, then I had to go home because this was unsafe for anyone, but especially a pregnant woman. She moved my students and me to a room that had A/C and wasn't being used. There was also another time where I thought my student was crying so I asked her if she was ok. She wasn't crying, she was

sweating! I can't believe in this day and age, we don't have proper cooling systems in the classroom. Many of our buildings are old and don't have adequate air filtration systems A/C. Fans don't work. They only circulate the hot air around. We waste so much money in education yet we can't find money to fix the basic needs in the classroom. If I could've brought in my own A/C, I would've. Something needs to be done about this. Many schools have A/C. However, many don't. It's a basic need to work and learn in a safe environment. I hope something is done about this sooner than later." — **East Meadow**

"I have been told that I have the hottest room in the school which I believe is true. I am located on the second floor, next to a rooftop where the sun beats down and radiates into my room. On days when it gets above 80 it is unbearable. I teach music and I am across from a library, so it is also often difficult to have my door open as well. When students are in my room, they complain of feeling sick, and/or they sit and do not participate in the lesson. I would estimate that my room gets unbearably hot at least 10 full days but up to 30 full days each school year, in September and in June, and a few days in May as well. It is absurd to me that we expect students to learn in these conditions." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"Outside air temperatures were approaching mid-to-high 80's today. I teach on the ground floor of our building and on the side which faces the sun all day long. Years ago, our school installed air exchange units as our 'new' heaters to help with ventilating our rooms with outside air. During the winter, the intake air is heated and during fair weather, it is blown into the room unaltered. On days like today, all the machine does is suck in the hot air around the building (which is much higher than the air temperature due to the sun beating on the wall all day) and push it into my room. I had the school provided box fan going which is only good for pushing around the hot air. I didn't have a thermometer to read, but I'm sure it was nothing less than 90 degrees. At the end of the last period of the day, a student of mine fainted and collapsed to the floor while I was teaching. This student has not had any problems I am aware of, to date. I attributed her ill health, in part, to the fact that my room was sweltering. On days like today, it is miserable to be in school teaching and learning. It is worse on the 2nd and 3rd floors on that side of the building. In the meantime, while we are 'sweatin' to the oldies,' anyone that is not teaching in a classroom (administration, secretaries, guidance, library) is in air-conditioned rooms in our school. It's time for all of us to have comfortable work and learning environments. I surely don't want another student collapsing in my room due to the excessive heat." — **Gouverneur**

"Today was our first day of school with students. The heat was unbearable. The hallways were hot and oppressive. It was difficult to concentrate on the work that needed to be done." — **Oceanside**

"Extreme heat in non-air-conditioned second floor classroom. Learner Centered Teaching (LCT) classroom with both general education and students with special needs." — **North Bellmore**

"The air is dead in B building. Constant extreme heat in all classrooms with no control to lower it. No air circulation. Let's also discuss our cubby hole of an office. No windows, constant tropical heat and no air circulation. I will not sit in that office for fear of catching some respiratory problems. Classroom in the 100 wing is the same. Dead air, constant heat ... Something needs to be done ... for the sake of admin and students' safety." — **SUNY Erie Campus North**

"In the months May and June and September the classroom is so warm opening windows makes it worse and when kids go outside and come back in, they are extremely overheated. I have had kids red in the face and worried about their health trying to cool them down. Most times kids are so warm they have trouble focusing on school." — **Wheatland Chili**

"First day of school, 88 degrees in my classroom, along with several others. I was dripping in sweat all day. I went home feeling overheated, nauseous and had a raging headache despite hydrating as much as possible all day. My students were covered in sweat, lethargic and exceptionally uncomfortable all day. The forecast for this first week back on Long Island is expected to be 90 or better, so there is no relief in sight!! This is disgusting, inhumane and completely unacceptable for teachers to be expected to carry out their job duties in an oppressively hot environment. Students cannot learn in this type of situation. Teachers and students have a right to work and learn in a safe and comfortable environment, which this is not! Something needs to be done, and NOW. It is 2023 in America. It is absolutely absurd that this is allowed to continue. And the fact that NYSUT has to 'fight' for a bill to be passed is insulting and unjust. Of course, the people responsible for making decisions are all sitting in air-conditioned offices, with no students in front of them." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"Staff members spend the day not hungry due to the heat, struggling to drink water as there is no time for bathroom breaks. Students with their heads down because it's just too hot to focus." — **Gates Chili**

"It's a small room for high school AP art, ceramics, college ceramics and college sculpture with one awning window and two kilns. The temperature was above 90 degrees outside this first week of school." — **Lindenhurst**

"My science room is on the 3rd floor (top floor). I do not have A/C. Although there are windows in my room, I have NO breeze. Temps hit 90-plus easily on an 80-degree day. I do have fans, but they circulate hot air and become useless. I as well as my students sweat quite a bit during a 40-minute class. Embarrassingly, I sweat to the point where my hair is wet, and clothing is wet/damp. I also become hoarse from

the dryness of the heat when teaching class or lab. Due to the uncomfortable nature of the temperature within my room, it is uncondusive to a quality learning experience." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"This entire week classrooms have been over 90 degrees inside with no air conditioning. Teachers and students are dizzy, you cannot breathe, it is impossible to even do work because it is so unbelievably hot inside. Elmont has said for years we would have air conditioning by now, yet nothing has been done. It is HORRIBLE! NO ONE — adults or little kids — should be expected to sit in this environment, let alone work, teach and thrive." — **Elmont**

"Outside temperatures reached 90+ degrees this first week of school, and indoor temperatures were reaching easily above 90 degrees. I do not have outlets near my window to prop a fan up in one, so I am breaking the fire code using an extension cord to do so. I was dress coded today as a teacher for wearing shorts (and a short sleeve button up with an undershirt) and told I must wear pants, "even though we understand it is hot". My school is ducted for A/C but supposedly having the air on was a luxury cut from the budget. The main office and cafeteria are the only air-conditioned locations in the building." — **Sullivan West**

"Today, 6-2-23, the classroom reached 88.5 degrees. There was an air quality alert issued for multiple counties in Western NY. Students were lethargic, overheated, unfocused, etc. This type of situation is not conducive to learning. AIR CONDITIONING in classrooms — especially second floor classrooms — is a MUST" — **West Seneca**

"My classroom was 79 degrees yesterday. My students were irritable and had a difficult time focusing on their schoolwork. There are students who have physical education in the class period before my science class. Students told me how hot and uncomfortable they are. Many students ask for drinks because they don't have water bottles. The poverty level in my district is over 70 percent. I have many students that are dressed inappropriately for the weather, due to not having spring/summer clothing. There are students dressed in long sleeved clothing or sweatshirts. In addition, many of these same students go home to living conditions without air conditioning. Let's make our students comfortable while learning. There are many hot days in September, May, and June. Let's not forget about students that attend summer school in July and August." — **Cheektowaga**

"I am on the third floor of an old school building. The floor has no heat, and my classroom has an entire wall of windows. The room reaches temperatures of 110 degrees in the May and June months!" — **Elmira Heights**

"There is no air. My classroom is a courtyard on one side. There is no breeze. The temperature in the school was suffocating. At many points during these last two days, I felt lightheaded and dizzy. These are unbearable conditions for students and teachers." — **Central Islip**

"I teach in a classroom on the second floor. The heat from the past four days was oppressive and draining. The temperature in my room was in the high 90s. The first thing I had to do each day after work was change my wet clothes!"
— **East Meadow**

"There was no A/C. This past week temperatures reached close to 100 degrees inside the building. These working conditions were horrible and hard to breathe let alone work in."
— **Elmont**

"My room is at the end of a hallway and gets direct sun all day long. If I open my windows, there is no cross breeze since there are no rooms across from me. I have fans, but they are so loud that it is hard to hear when they are on. Temps in my room get above 90 on hot days at the beginning and end of the school year. Large rooms like mine are used to cram students in for final exams — 60-100 students in a room that is 90+ degrees with no air conditioning. Also, the only drinking fountains that are working are bottle fillers. So, if a student does not have a water bottle or a cup with them, they will be unable to keep hydrated during these oppressive days."
— **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"We have no air conditioning in our schools and teachers and kids are getting heat exhaustion."
— **East Ramapo**

"Temperatures in my classroom were in excess of 80 degrees on the extremely hot days we had at the end of the school year. Attempts to keep the classroom bearable included keeping lights off and having multiple fans running at once. These fans, with the addition of the county provided air purifier and the ventilation system added to the background noise in the room. The heat made it harder for children to concentrate and perform to the best of their abilities. The added ambient noise made teaching harder because I had to talk louder and/or repeat myself for children to hear. Children had water bottles, but this caused them to have to use the restroom more, which took more time away from teaching. As a teacher, I was definitely not as awake as usual due to feeling tired from the extreme heat in the classroom. When leaving school at the end of the day, I was more tired than usual and not able to prepare effectively for the next day's teaching."
— **Hamburg**

"This week we had excruciatingly hot temperatures in our building, which has no air conditioning, except for the administrative office, the cafeteria, the library and the gymnasium! For example, I came into school with the temperature at 79 degrees at 7:30am. It was in the 80s several times throughout the day and this made it impossible for students to focus. I have a digital thermometer in my room, and I've taken pictures several times this week showing 82 degrees, 84 degrees, 86 degrees, etc."
— **Vestal**

"Temps hit 89 for supply drop off and open house. That was with three fans going and windows open. On the first

student day it hit 84." — **Grand Island**

"While our classroom temperature is not the issue, outdoor recess is! With a real feel of 104 degrees, our elementary students and paras were sent outdoors to areas with limited shade. We have restrictions in place for extreme cold, why not the heat?!" — **Great Neck**

"Temp: 91 degrees. Humidity: 64 percent. Heat index 105 all day long." — **Bay Shore**

"I worked for the Albany school district until 2006. I realize it was quite a while ago, but I doubt things have changed much. Some of the schools where I taught (traveling music teacher) had no air conditioning and sweat would actually run down both the teachers' and students' faces. One school had air conditioning, but the maintenance people were instructed to turn off the system at night and then start them up each morning. That made no sense seeing as the classrooms didn't cool down for at least a few hours and the air was typically humid no matter what the temperature was because the system was shut down nightly. I hope the district gets adequate funding for air conditioning units. Maybe the issue with turning the system off at night can be addressed as well." — **Albany**

"Classrooms were way too hot. Children couldn't think right. I came home with headache." — **Dolgeville**

"I have been a teacher for over 25 years, and I have never felt my classroom this hot before. Not only was it difficult to teach, but in my opinion, it became a dangerous situation. My coworkers and I were dizzy, nauseous and fearful for our well-being." — **Central Islip**

"I'm actually petitioning for my sister. She is a teacher in Brentwood HS and to have to teach in a classroom that is 80-plus degrees in this day and age, just is not right. Not only for comfort but for the safety of the faculty and students. Individuals can suffer from heat related medical issues even if they are healthy. Please A/C all classrooms for them!" — **Brentwood**

"When I was a classroom teacher in this district the temperature on the third floor of our building would reach 90-plus degrees. During a state assessment for science, a student passed out and struck her head on a desk. It was terrible and was caused by the excess heat. I would also have to add ice to my fish tank to keep the fish from being cooked!" — **Elmira**

"We started work yesterday with two days of PD. Getting the classroom ready in this heat has been unbearable. It has even been hard to participate in PD sessions via Zoom. Tomorrow will be even worse when some classes are filled with 32 students. These conditions are not healthy for anyone!" — **East Ramapo**

"Imagine it's a hot day ... you enter your office from outside and Aaaaahhh! ... cool air hits your face. Now imagine the same, but when you enter your office, it is just as hot, if not more so, than outside. You call your management, and they say they will send someone to fix your A/C. As you sit in your office – which, by the way, faces the sun – it just keeps getting hotter and hotter. And you are still expected to complete your day's work. Well, I did not have to imagine this scenario because this was my classroom, my KINDERGARTEN classroom on the first floor. Unfortunately, the students on the 4th floor had the same situation. It was even worse for them since their classrooms were right below the roof. Only our second and third floor classrooms had A/Cs because summer school was held there. On the hottest days outside, my classroom reached anywhere between 85 and 89 degrees. Even though we had had new windows placed in our school, I was told no new A/Cs were placed in the windows because that had to go through a different contractor and bidding. I worked 25 years in that classroom, and it was not until my 25th and last year that our school FINALLY got A/Cs on the first and fourth floor. How schools STILL do not have A/Cs is beyond me. All these demands placed upon teachers to teach and students to learn; how is this supposed to happen in a stifling and hot classroom? For those who say, 'Get a fan.... All that does is blow the hot air around. It does not get rid of it. Shame on all the people who can and do nothing about this. But then of course, why should they care... they are the ones walking into that cooled office room and not that hot and stifling classroom.'
— **New York City**

"Working on the second floor of an elementary building, facing out into direct sunlight without a single tree, my classroom consistently reaches 90 and sometimes 100-plus degrees in the months of June and September. I always alert students and families that it will feel 10-15 degrees hotter in our classroom than outside. Students are often lethargic and dehydrated. As the teacher I am as well in addition to losing my voice almost daily to be heard over fans that push around too hot air anyway. To begin a school year in a Title 1 school that requires a great deal of structure, routine, and relationship-building, it really has an impact in a negative way for all parties inside the classroom to be exhausted and overheated. It makes it really hard to get almost anything done on these days. Additionally, the classroom itself will remain hot for 2-3 days AFTER temperatures come down outside."
— **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"Classroom was over 90 degrees for three days, and the building will retain this heat for days."
— **Central Islip**

"Temperature reaching 85 in air-conditioned office."
— **Clarkstown**

"Throughout my teaching career all my districts have had no ventilation. My classroom has reached 99 degrees and on some occasions over 100. The four windows in my classroom open about 8 inches. The students are

lethargic, complain of headaches and at some points I send them to the bathroom to wet their face to keep them from overheating or passing out. In addition, the majority of my students are still wearing masks and with the heat, no ventilation, it is hard for them to breathe. Students complain of migraines and keep their heads down. I provide water bottles for students because at times the water fountain adjacent to my classroom only has warm water." — **Central Islip**

"We have no A/C in our school I almost passed out today from the heat."
— **Bedford**

"The heat is unbearable in my school. We had a heat advisory the entire first week back which meant I could not do as much movement in music class which inhibited my routine for the first week of school. If I have trouble concentrating while teaching in the heat, there is no way students are paying attention to the learning that they need to. The extreme heat makes me have to open all my windows in my school which makes bees fly in and disrupts the entire class ... we have had a plethora of stings this year so far and we have been in school for three days. I thought I was going to pass out setting up my classroom year. Teachers barely get to drink water or go to the bathroom during the day as it is. Imagine working in 95-degree heat ... in the school and being unable to drink water for 2.5 hours. This causes extreme health issues to occur. This is NOT okay, and teachers/schools NEED air conditioning to support not only our health but performance and academic success as well."
— **Central Islip**

"My classroom is a corner room, located on the 3rd floor, on the sunny side of the building. In September, May and June, by the time I arrive at 7 a.m. the room temperature is already in the mid 80s on hot days. Several years back, I requested an air conditioning unit be installed due to medical conditions I experience. Medical documentation and directives were provided by my general practitioner, but the request was still denied. When the class fills with students, the temperature rises another 5 to 10 degrees. There are three fans in my classroom, blowing warm air around and making it impossible to hear each other — either direct instruction or students responding. Students check out with this heat. They cannot focus, rather they spend the class period fanning themselves and complaining about how hot they are. Little work and little learning are happening."
— **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"I have asked them to fix the air conditioner in our teachers' lounge for the past six years. They have told us because there's no children in the lounge, we don't warrant an air conditioner. I feel that teachers are human beings, and we get 50 minutes for lunch to regroup and it's unbearable. We have one window that sometimes is hard to open and no air purifier; even through COVID we hardly had one. The main office, principal's office and assistant principal have air conditioning. We have no A/C in the gym. We also have a

music room that has no A/C and they told her it's art class, meanwhile children are in there every period. The needs for teachers and paraprofessionals are not taken into consideration. The heat in the winter is unbearable, which makes children as well as staff become tired and drowsy, which is not good for anyone's health. Please help."

— **New York City**

"I had COVID-19 in late August and have had lingering fatigue, some other ailments as well which may be related to another health issue. On the day I was well enough to return from COVID leave, weather.gov had forecasted the heat index to be in the mid to high 90s. Coming in for a half day, I completed my state trainings in one room with A/C. Other than making sure the essentials were in the classroom and the computer worked, the classroom did not have A/C so unless potentially risking my health/wellness, I was not able to prep the room as much as I wanted to. The next day was the first day of school and the temperature was in the 80s. I had to keep an air purifier running without air conditioning as an approved work order has still not been completed. AC should be standard in all rooms for student/teacher wellness." — **Vestal**

"During the first week of school, the temperature was so hot that my upstairs classroom reached a temperature of 92 degrees. This is an unsafe environment for our students."

— **Central Islip**

"My thermostat was so far to the right of 90-plus degrees that it didn't even register!" — Clarkstown

"The kids and I have had sweat dripping down our faces all week. My back is wet throughout the entire day. I can see sweat beading in my boy students' hair. It's so hot!"

— **Central Islip**

"When it's hot outside, our building gets extremely uncomfortable. All my classes are on the sunny side of the building, and it just bakes and bakes us. Student engagement is extremely low, and everybody feels exhausted and sick by the time we are done. The building holds the heat for days so even when the temperature drops outside, we still are very uncomfortable for days after a hot one. I've taught in classrooms that are definitely over 90 degrees. It's awful." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"The last few months of the last school year we were told to pack everything up in the building because floors were to be replaced. I am an art teacher. I teach over 550 students per week. This year we were given two days to move furniture, boxes, unpack boxes, hang displays and put everything in its correct location before the students arrive tomorrow. That in itself would be an impossible task but add to that that my classroom is over 100 degrees and will continue to be that temperature when students arrive. Yesterday I could barely think by the end of the day. I am currently taking a much need break just so I can sit for a minute, type this and catch my breath." — **East Ramapo**

"In our classroom, the thermometer that's by the door read 88 degrees. Students were putting their heads down and dozing off due to the extreme heat. Sitting next to the windows seemed worse because the hot air was blowing in. I gave out ice pops one day in hopes of giving some relief to the children. Three days in a row of heat and the air being trapped in the building made it extremely worse by the third day. We all tried our best to do our best to teach our children, but it was extremely hard with staff members and students getting headaches, being irritable and sweating all day long. Upstairs the thermometer read 93 degrees. I just felt so bad for the children and staff." — **Brentwood**

"I've retired from the school district after 23 years of being a teacher aid. Every year May-June, September to October. Hot as hell. Riverside Elementary Cafeteria feels like an oven. Hallways and all classrooms, including special areas gym, art, etc. Hot as hell. If you want to have the school put in air conditioning for everyone, not just the principal, office ladies and nurses, it's pure hell during those months. Summer school and cohesion are 100 times worse. Put the A/C in and actually use it. If the district received COVID funds that would be putting it to good use." — **Elmira**

It is 85-plus degrees with a heat advisory in effect, and there's no air conditioning in most of the school. We sit in hot classrooms proctoring tests! The kids are sweaty and miserable, the teachers are uncomfortable with headaches and feeling ill. These are not the best testing conditions for teachers, nor students!" — Hamburg

"When the temperatures rise my room gets very hot and stagnant even with all the windows open and a fan blowing. I am on the 2nd floor above a parking lot. I need my door to be shut because I teach music and must keep noise to a minimum for the library across the hall from me. Yesterday the temperature outside was in the upper 80s. The elementary children that I teach were lifeless. At times I felt nauseous due to lack of air flow. My students and I are not as productive in the heat. Given that we potentially can have up to 4 months of high temperatures, I feel that in 2022 schools should be equipped with air conditioners."

— **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"The fact that we have to work in this heat with no air conditioning is barbaric and inhumane. It's 2023 and every classroom should have an A/C unit. It's a basic necessity for student education. I go home with a migraine every time it's a hot day. No one should have to go home feeling sick, exhausted and incapable of taking care of their own child at home because of the temperature in their classroom. There should be funding for air conditioning when there is funding for everything else! Also, the offices are all equipped with air conditioning but why can't the classrooms? We say we are all about student learning and safety, but we can say that with 100 percent certainty because we are denying them the basic need for air and comfort. Something needs to change!" — **Half Hollow Hills**

"How can children be expected to concentrate let alone learn when it is in excess of 90 degrees?" — Farmingdale

"Yesterday (9/12/19) I had six large fans running at medium speed in one of my classrooms and the temperature was still 84 and it was extremely humid. I was attempting to teach with sweat dripping down my face and back. Students were lethargic and red-faced. These are not healthy or effective conditions for learning or teaching. We have issues with high temperatures in September, May and June. These are critical times of the school year and negatively impact student learning and success on Regents exams."

— **Fairport**

"Awful humidity and high temps today made the room unbearable. The students were sweating and distracted. I was dripping sweat and not at my best." — **Bay Shore**

"No air conditioning in my office where children gather for lockdowns nor in my gym where I teach." — **New York City**

"I work with students who have regulatory issues and need lots of assistance to keep calm. It is very hard to keep calm when the temps are so high. It really makes the gaps between those on grade level and those below grade level get bigger. Also, we often have to put a child in a TCIS hold in order to keep them safe and those holds can result in body temps getting very high with the extreme heat in the classrooms." — **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"I teach students with special needs, and it has been unbearable. The heat has caused meltdowns, anxiety, and prevented learning. It has been well over 90 degrees in my classroom this whole week." — **Central Islip**

"In 2016, I transferred to a new classroom within our building. My old classroom was hot but not unbearable, as there were some large trees outside the windows which gave it some shade. My new classroom was in the sun all day long and had the added problem of an interior, glass-walled courtroom located opposite the doorway. Therefore, it received extra heat and relentless sun all day long. I have asthma and this was documented in my employment paperwork. When I was in my old middle school, I had an A/C unit in the room because my room was located in an extension hallway which was essentially a metal container. With my move to the new high school, and the new classroom, I requested an A/C unit and was denied immediately. Our principal at the time said, 'We don't accommodate teacher requests for A/C because the building is too large and there is too much movement among classrooms.' I provided documentation asking to stay in one classroom all day for a differing medical issue (multiple spinal surgeries). I again asked for a unit and was denied. In the meanwhile, I developed high blood pressure and a heart condition commonly called SVT (extra/irregular beats). At the suggestion of my union, I started documenting

temperatures in my room at the beginning of the 2018 school year. In September, I was regularly getting readings of anywhere from 89 to 100 degrees on a regular thermometer. I asked for a way to measure the heat index but was not provided a tool. On 9/6/2018, the governing body of our sports in Suffolk County (Section XI) cancelled all sports and after school activities due to an excessive heat warning. That same day, I had to use my asthma inhaler (which I do use regularly) because of the oppressive heat and humidity in my classroom. Unfortunately, the use of this medication counteracts the medications I need for the SVT heart condition, and I began to feel extremely ill. I went to the nurse with sky high blood pressure (156/102) and a resting heart rate of 80-84, I felt quite ill, and my body was reacting to the combination of medications and my medical conditions. I was not allowed to drive home, and the nurse wanted to send me to the ER in an ambulance. I was able to make an emergency appointment with my cardiologist and was given a ride home. I was told to continue to monitor the temps and my vital signs and to document all of this. I visited the nurse several more times that fall while becoming sick at work. I asked yet again for an A/C unit and was finally granted one. It was installed in the early winter, which did nothing to alleviate the terrible fall conditions that I worked under. Now, the unit is 'attached' to me and will stay with me wherever I move in the building. However, the danger to my health was a huge liability (in my opinion) and was the only thing that ultimately made the district change its stance and allow me to receive one." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"The first day of school (yesterday Wednesday 9/6/2023) was 91 degrees. Nothing helped combat the heat, it didn't matter if our windows were open or not, blinds were up or down, and no number of fans in the room provided any relief. It truly felt inhumane to work in a building on that hot of a day with no A/C. It seriously felt like every person left with genuine heat exhaustion."
— **Churchville-Chili**

"No A/C. Second floor. As an art teacher, fans are a problem and cause issues with art supplies. They're ineffective. As I write this at 11:00 am, it is already 88 degrees in my room. The heat damages certain materials, like causing paint to rot and oil pastels to melt. But the biggest issue — we are all uncomfortable, cranky and cannot be our best under these circumstances. I also have students with IEPs that require A/C in all classes, but that gets ignored when it comes to art class." — **Farmingdale**

"The heat was so unbearable the kids felt and looked lethargic. It was the worst opening week of school ever! No one deserves to teach under those conditions. The children were miserable. I have never experienced such a horrible first three days. I have been teaching for 20 years, this was by far the worst! Despite having two fans, it was NOT ENOUGH!" — **Central Islip**

**"My classroom has no working air conditioning in it. I teach pre-K and it is not safe for anyone to be in the classroom with these exceedingly high temperatures."
— New York City**

"The heat in our classrooms has made teaching conditions hard to keep up with and our students and staff lethargic. Many students in kindergarten were made growingly upset, cranky, and unwilling to participate in activities due to the heat in the classroom. Four classroom fans were not enough to make a difference in our room. Please help make a change." — **Bay Shore**

"Children cannot learn in these heated, unconditioned classrooms. It is not fair to them. Please air condition all classrooms for the health and well-being of our students."
— **Kenmore-Tonawanda**

"91 degrees using science thermometers." — Sag Harbor

"Ithaca High Schools various buildings do not all have air conditioning. During the first and last months of the school year, it is not uncommon to have rooms 80 degrees and above due to ineffective air conditioning. During the winter, the buildings are heated, but the heating systems do not always work as intended, and, especially in the music building, rooms reach very high heats; during the 2022–2023 school year, the orchestra room once reached 80 degrees during the day in the middle of winter. As a student, I often have a hard time concentrating, as the heat often makes me tired and quite uncomfortable." — **Ithaca**

"Teachers and students are inside classrooms with no air conditioning and almost no ventilation or cross breeze. The doors are closed all the way for safety protocols and most windows must also remain closed or are open but only open to around 8 inches (also for safety protocols). With temperatures outside at above 90 degrees, inside the buildings, classrooms can easily reach those same temps. Classrooms upstairs are even worse because the heat rises. Students and staff at best are sweating and unfocused. At worst people are getting sick." — **North Bellmore**

"My classroom/building has no air conditioning. There are a handful of rooms that have an A/C unit, but most do not. If it is hot outside, it's hot in the classroom. There is little to no circulation in the room. I have a thermometer in the classroom, and it's been 82 degrees or higher and nothing has been done about it. There is no way to find relief for the students or faculty. When it is hot and humid, posters and bulletin boards get warped and need to be fixed. The hallways and classrooms near the bathrooms smell horrible. It's truly unbearable at times." — **East Ramapo**

"My classroom temperature was over 100 yesterday. It is expected to be hotter today!" — **Half Hollow Hills**

"Every year, mostly in September and June (sometimes May also), it is unbearably hot in most of our classrooms. I think that air conditioning for classrooms was on the docket for some capital projects in the past but has never made the final cut. Students are very sluggish on these hot days and many students and teachers go home at the end of the day feeling physically ill." — **Chenango Forks**

"I hold CSE meetings in my small office. Even on a cool day, the temperature of the room increases ... especially when we are having challenging conversations with families about their students and their needs. On warmer weather days, my office is sweltering." — **Amherst**

"I am an Art paraprofessional. We maintain appropriate temperatures in the Art room as best we can. But when the warm weather comes there is only so much we can do. We can only open windows. There is very little circulation. There should be ceiling fans at the very least. Since the Art room is also used for Music, we circulate amount classrooms. That's when we see windows are not open in classrooms or too many are open. Making the rooms either uncomfortably too warm or too cold. There needs to be a mandate that states the acceptable range that provides a healthy and safe learning and teaching environment. Thank you." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"This week the classroom here was unbearable. Within minutes of teaching, I was drenched with sweat. It is almost impossible to focus or think." — **Brentwood**

"Without air-conditioned schools, classrooms are too hot, learning is unproductive and unsafe for students and staff."
— **Amherst**

"I teach Math Intervention to Grades 5 through 7. The majority of my kids are students who struggle to stay motivated and find every excuse to avoid working hard. Having a hot classroom is just another way for them to complain and emphasize their work avoidance tendencies. I don't blame them; we all work better, listen better and achieve more when we are comfortable. Kids stick to the chairs; fans barely help, and our classroom doors cannot remain open to let air flow in because our class periods often interfere with the passing times of other grades. Window A/Cs at the very least should be in every classroom if districts can't afford to supply central air to school buildings." — Kenmore-Tonawanda

"The heat often makes me feel ill. This interferes with my teaching when I cannot give my students my 100 percent due to headaches and lightheadedness." — **Central Islip**

"My classroom is located on the second floor, with windows that barely open. We don't have air conditioning and aren't provided with any fans. The classroom temperatures are unbearable for staff and students alike." — **Amherst**

"I have been a classroom teacher for 27 years and counting. I have always been in intermediate grade and on the 2nd or 3rd floor of a building. Starting in May the classroom begins to heat up, and I have logged temperatures from 83 to 91 degrees. I have an average of 18 students in the room. The temperature is not the only issue. There is a lack of air flow and humidity. Students become lethargic, in need of water (I began allowing water bottles many years ago to alleviate dehydration issues), and attention begins to decline. Extreme temperatures are unhealthy and unproductive. We talk about caring about students, building relationships, but schools are one of the only public places that don't have universal air. So, we are willing to subject students, 3 years old on, to unbearable heat. Please ensure that schools provide students with a comfortable learning environment. I even brought in my own vented air conditioner to help alleviate the heat. It wasn't big enough to cool it down but kept the humidity at bay. As a teacher, my salary doesn't constitute buying an air conditioner so I can teach, and children can learn. Again, no other profession is treated in this manner. I worked in construction for years. The difference is I knew what I was in for, and I didn't have to teach 16 to 25 other people. No more rising temperatures in classrooms." — **Binghamton**

"It was unbearably hot today, Thursday September 7th. There were multiple fans running in every room and it was still stifling hot. Our schools do not have air conditioning and it was uncomfortable and hard to focus. It had to have been in the mid 80s in our classrooms." — **Kingston**

"I have told you my story, but I'm wondering about whether anyone is listening to the stories of the custodians. They are doing hard, physical labor in the extreme heat, not just in the hot days of June and September, but also in July and August. I feel like that's a heart attack waiting to happen. Who is listening to their stories?" — **Half Hollow Hills**

"I am on the second floor and the air is so humid and thick you can't even breathe. I am young, have no breathing problems and I almost fainted today. The air conditioning that we do have in the library and teachers' lounge don't even work! It's going to be worse with kids and more bodies in the building. I can't imagine it is healthy or safe to be in these conditions!" — **East Ramapo**

"My guess, because I don't have a thermostat, would be that my room had to be well over 90 degrees for two days of prep and conferences, and the entire first day with students. Tomorrow is forecasted to be slightly cooler, so I am figuring the room will be in the low 80s." — **Sayville**

"My classroom is uncomfortably hot! Very little air circulation because I'm on the 2nd floor in a corner courtyard room with a black roof that is next to most of my windows. Today it was at 89 degrees but it felt like 99 degrees." — **Sayville**

"I'm on the third floor, east-facing, sheltered (read: no airflow) side of our building. I have the blinds closed as much as I can while still trying to let air in from the two windows that open. With the 90-degree temps recently, I was literally sweating through my clothes and kids were visibly sweating and lethargic. Regents exams are a nightmare in this kind of setting as well." — **Buffalo**

"Our classroom routinely hits 90 in September and June. It is so uncomfortable that the kids definitely have a hard time focusing. Especially by 9th period." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"My 6th grade social studies class has no A/C and it was so hot the first two days of school that I was drenched in sweat and was forced to shower and change my clothes when I got home. The temperature was over 90 degrees in my room." — **Schenectady**

"On our first day of school temperatures in classrooms exceeded 90 degrees with stale, humid air. My side of the building has tall windows facing the sun. Trees along our building were cut down to accommodate a parking lot. We had A/C units installed, but lines were not connected in time for the start of school. Children were not dressed appropriately. I'm not sure if they thought we had A/C, but several were wearing long sleeves and pants. By the afternoon, conditions were just unbearable." — **Schalmont**

"Every year between the months of May - June and then again in September my kindergarten classroom reaches highs between 85 degrees to 88 degrees with humidity levels around 60 percent. My classroom is on the second floor and is on the East side of the building, so when the morning sun streams through my windows it heats up first thing in the morning and stays that warm all day long. The windows only open about 6' due to safety reasons I assume. Closing the shades offers some relief from the sun, but then the few windows that do open 6" are blocked and offer absolutely no airflow. I have two fans in my classroom but all they do is push around hot air. The students in my classroom sweat so much their faces are glossy and their hair drips with sweat. Many lay limply on their desks for a good portion of the day. I try to fill bins with water and do classroom water play during the day or activities like 'who can melt the ice cube the fastest' to find creative ways to keep them cool but those activities only last so long. I saw a newscast the other day on WGRZ Buffalo and the news anchor interviewed a principal of Buffalo Public school and asked what he was doing to keep the teachers and kids cool while the weather was so hot and the principal basically said they were working on getting air conditioning in the future in the classrooms through grants but right now the teachers know how to deal with it and they are used to it. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. That teachers are used to sitting in these extreme temperatures and we know how to deal with it!? No, we aren't, and no, we don't! We don't have a choice!"

When I'm at home I DO NOT keep my house temperature at 87 degrees EVER so no I am NOT used to sitting in an 87 degrees room all day, and I really don't know how to deal with it! I try to make my 4- and 5-year-old students as comfortable as possible while they're in my room, but I certainly don't have any special training on how to "deal" with these absurd classroom temperatures. This year they decided to put air conditioning in our cafeteria. The office already had it. It's interesting to me that they would choose rooms where the least amount of people exist in throughout the day (the office with the secretary and principal) and a room where the students spend only 30 minutes of their day, and the teachers never go in (the cafeteria) to put air conditioning in." — Dunkirk

"Temperatures reach well over 90 degrees. I have broken windows that face Southeast and windows to the west as well. The sun grills us the whole day. My room is a 4th floor room right next to a tar roof that throws even more heat into the classroom. I teach with the lights off and minimal ventilation. My students and we teachers, alike, are beyond hot." — **Buffalo**

"The room is so hot I am constantly fighting to keep things on the walls, I leave each day with my stomach in knots." — **Sayville**

"The temperature outside for the past two days has been about 90 degrees. With classrooms that face the sun and are on the second or third floor, that temperature increases to unsafe temperatures. Our students and teachers have trouble focusing when we are dripping in sweat and uncomfortable. Our students and staff have been left frustrated and exhausted from the heat alone." — **Amherst**

"Very hot. No air flow. Students had to get water outside classroom to cool down, missing instruction time." — Central Islip

"In the spring months, on hot days my classroom temperature is unbearable. I'm on the eastern side of the building, so the sun is blazing through the windows. There is no cross breeze, and the air is stagnant. I had to leave work because my body could not deal with the heat. I had six students absent on Friday because of heat. I know the parents decided not to send them in." — **Buffalo**

"Our classroom has been up to 91 degrees on hot days. The room we are in is supposed to be air-conditioned due to the room being an office. However. The A/C has been broken for years. I work in a behavioral room and the heat does affect behaviors." — **Buffalo**

The situation these last three days after starting school was deplorable. First, I got out of the car at 6:20 in the morning and by 6:28 (after picking up my teacher mail for the day

and going back to my classroom) I was already drenched in sweat. When the students arrived in the classroom (understand I have 40 students in just one class, with a total roster of 178 children), they saw their teacher with an outfit completely soaked in sweat. But don't worry, they were not far behind, for they were packed like sardines into a classroom where they hardly had any elbow room. We are not even provided electric fans to at least move around the hot air! How, then, I wonder can you expect children to feel proud and eager to learn in such an environment? The students lacked energy all week, and even adults were deflated. I have no idea how being in such an environment is conducive to great education or quality work. Ironically, is the state concerned that students aren't performing well? Really? They can do something as simple as providing the funds to install central air in every district to avoid this kind of situation. But they don't, because taxing the people further to pay for it would be a crime at this point and, heaven forbid, we tax the well-off in this state (that would affect their bottom line). It shows that much of what the state says are just talking points. One thing we surely need less of in the classroom is more hot air." — **Central Islip**

"I taught for 34 years, 30 of those years at Amherst Central. Some years, my classroom was on the second floor over an asphalt parking lot, in a U-shaped part of the building. There was no breeze, and only heat coming in the window. On hot, humid days, I brought a fan or two from home, but they were not much help when the temperature and humidity were high. I tried to teach all my lessons, and all the children tried to listen and do their work. My students struggled to pay attention and complete their work which I had already simplified because of the extreme heat. My strongest students had difficulty sitting up, they were putting their heads in their arms, trying to listen and participate. My four children graduated from Amherst, and three of my grandchildren attend there." — **Amherst**

"Working this week with temperatures in my classroom reaching 83 degrees caused me to have headaches and nausea for hours after school. If I didn't have air conditioning in my house, I probably would have had to use a sick day by Friday. Not the way to start the year!!" — **Central Islip**

"I work in four different classrooms with special education students. Our classrooms were 85-90 degrees. It was very difficult to get students to focus." — **Bay Shore**

"It's 11:50 on May 31 and the temperature in the classroom is 83 degrees with 48 percent humidity. When I came into school today, my windows were previously opened by the custodial staff. I'm grateful for this because the heat would be even higher if they had not done that. I also am using a school provided industrial fan. With all this help, it is still 83 degrees!" — **Buffalo**

"I have 26 third graders in a room upstairs. The temp gets into the 80s in June and September! The kids don't come properly dressed. Fans do nothing but make noise and blow papers everywhere. Kids cannot focus or concentrate. Univents do NOTHING. This needs to stop! We need A/C!" — Central Islip

"We started school on Tuesday (9/5) and the past three days it has been 90+ degrees outside. Inside temperatures have ranged from 85–86 degrees in classrooms. It is uncomfortable, hard to teach, and for students to learn when everyone is hot. Buildings should have air/large fans to help circulate the air around." — Amherst

"This week, we started our first week of school. It has been unbearably hot. Inside our classroom, our thermometer read 92 degrees. This kind of heat all day in the classroom makes it almost impossible to learn. As an adult, I can barely think straight myself in these conditions. I've gone home with headaches each day, feeling sick to my stomach — and if I feel this way, I can only imagine how much worse the children feel. These kinds of learning conditions are unsafe and unhealthy." — Central Islip

"I work for D79 in Brooklyn. We teach students moving through the court system. We are housed in a secure detention facility with no windows and no ventilation. It is February. Our workspace is normally between 80 and 90 degrees. We are getting skin rashes, headaches, nausea, and vertigo. Many of us are in our 50s and 60s. This is inhumane." — New York City

"My classroom has been intolerably hot for the first week of school. We do not have enough air conditioning units for every classroom. The hallways are overflowing with students, and this makes the heat worse. Many students have commented on this along with the staff." — Brentwood

"When students become too hot, they cannot concentrate. Our district has refused to provide air conditioners, even to those teachers with medical needs or accommodations. They believe the Univent systems are sufficient. They are not air conditioners, nor do they cool the air. We see increased student behaviors and decreased student focus and attention when the rooms are hot. Please help our students focus because they have already lost enough learning due to the mishandling of education during COVID-19." — Central Islip

"Not sure but it feels like 100 plus. It is a waste of time; everyone is absolutely miserable." — Central Islip

"The high heat and humidity in the rooms is not only bad for the teachers/students but is extremely bad for the string instruments. The instruments need to be in a humidity-controlled environment (not too hot, not too cold) so that they stay in tune and stay in good shape. The heat causes the wood to expand/contract and has poor effects on the instruments. This heat can potentially cause expensive

damage (cracked or open seams) that we then need to send out and get repaired. We have a large amount of string instruments at the middle school that need to be taken better care of to avoid this." — Shenendehowa

"The past 4 days in my classroom have been brutal. The temperature reached 98 degrees Fahrenheit. I had children falling asleep at their desks. Some of the kids were sweating so badly that they looked like they just got out of a swimming pool. I went home each night with a pounding headache. I have a picture of the thermometer that I had in my classroom if you would like to see that. One child asked me to please close the windows because he was too hot and needed a break from the heat. I explained that we do not have air conditioning and that it would make it worse. Please help us fix this situation." — Central Islip

"Obviously when it's over 80 degrees outside, it doesn't help to open your windows especially if your classroom is in direct sunlight. Trying to dress professionally but stay cool is a challenge. When your classroom is over 90 degrees even with fans, nobody benefits. We need, at the very least, portable window units for our classrooms!"

— Coxsackie-Athens

"Mine was 89 by afternoon." — Hendrick Hudson

"My classroom was 90 degrees yesterday with 60 percent humidity. My room faces a brick wall. There is never a breeze. Today it was 85 degrees with 70 percent humidity. Four fans do nothing to cool the room down." — Islip

"My classroom is up on the 4th floor of the high school building that I work in. On top of the rising temperatures outside (80+!), my room has the sun beating down through the windows for most of the day. And there is NO AIR CONDITIONING at all!" — Binghamton

My classroom has two windows on the same wall with a door on an adjacent wall leading to a small hallway, with two self-purchased floor turbo force fans. The classroom did not get any ventilation the first week of school. By the end of teaching first period, I felt I needed to go home shower and change my clothes, that is not an option, as there were eight more periods to go in the day. The lights were kept off for the entire day though that made little difference. Students and I struggled to concentrate and complete tasks as the heat was unbearable. The air was muggy, sticky and stifling. Students even had to eat in the cafeteria with no windows and only two doors open. You could feel the heat when you walked by as you could feel the heat in my classroom when you went into my hallway."

— Brentwood

"When extreme heat is present in our school and especially in the classrooms this week with a three-day heat wave, the staff and kids are not able to work or even think. It is not a good working condition and should not be tolerated. ... These are basic needs and when the temperature in the

classroom reads 91 the level of attention also diminishes. Please consider adding air conditioners in the schools. It's not what I want at this point. It's a necessity." — **Central Islip**

"It was inhumanely hot for the first three days of school. Children were lethargic and complaining of feeling sick. Sweat was visibly dripping from every single person in the school. It was difficult to breathe comfortably as the air was thick. No one should have to work under these extreme conditions, especially children. No one can understand how the district cannot help support their employees and students by providing adequate cooling services."

— **Central Islip**

"My classroom is an absolute heat trap. It is on the second floor with windows facing the East and South, so it receives direct sunlight all day long. I also have aluminum blinds that conduct the heat from the sun. We are allowed to use fans, but those just circulate the heated air. Temperatures in the fall and spring can exceed 80 degrees, which has a devastating effect on the learning environment. I can see the discomfort in my students' faces." — **Caledonia-Mumford**

"We are teaching in a building that only has air conditioning in the library and administrator's offices. My classroom faces East where there is absolutely no breeze and during summer school the temperature pushes 100 degrees. The most pathetic part of this is that in BPS we do have buildings that are air conditioned that are not being used. According to district administration, they must rotate the buildings that host the program. It is absurd. Summer school should only be hosted in buildings that have air conditioning. Today it was 87 degrees with a real feel of 91 outside. Throughout the day I became very dizzy and light-headed. Only 2 of my 10 students attended today and I imagine the excessive heat is part of the blame. There was no learning and no teaching as we were all too hot and tired. We spent part of our day in the library to cool off. We spend another part on the playground." — **Buffalo**

"Being the first days of school, the speech teachers in my building devoted all the time to do schedules for the year. We decided to use the faculty room, as it was the only one that had an A/C unit. However, the temperature in that room was the same as in other parts of the school, so there was nothing else to do. We waited until the last period, PD for the gym teacher, to refresh in the gymnasium, the only space with A/C. I wonder how anyone can focus and learn or teach in such an uncomfortable condition."

— **Central Islip**

"Third day of school and our classroom temperature was 83 at 7am and 92 by the end of the day. It hung around 87 most of the day. Kids are uncomfortable. Teachers are uncomfortable. Lessons activities must be modified so that movement in the classroom can be restricted. It's insufferable." — **Carmel**

"Today's temperature was crippling inside the classroom. We had parents meet and greet and the poor parents' head sweat beads rolling down their foreheads in five minutes. Every single parent commented on how stifling hot it was. My thermometer was reading 90 degrees INSIDE the classroom, and that was without our class present."

— **Herkimer**

"It was 90 in my classroom today, 9/8/23." — **Ballston Spa**

"My classrooms were between 88-91 degrees on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not only was the heat excessive, but the humidity was also oppressive. The lack of oxygen in the air not only makes it difficult to breathe but also to think and comprehend information. These weather conditions prohibited me from teaching. This extreme heat and humidity also prohibits the students from receiving an appropriate education, which they are legally entitled to."

— **Central Islip**

"I teach orchestra at both the middle and high school levels. At the middle school, in particular, the room is often stifling in May, June and September. My ensembles meet in the afternoon, so the room is at its hottest when anywhere from 30-60 students come for rehearsal. Not only are the students and I very warm, but the hot temperatures are horrible for our stringed instruments. Any extreme change in temperature affects the wood, glue, strings and seams. This results in extra repairs needed, all of which costs money." — **Shenendehowa**

"I think one of the worst things about the heat, besides being unbearable at times, is that students keep interrupting the class. I teach the lower grades and the kids kept stopping me to tell me they are hot or that they are sweating." — **Central Islip**

"Us parents last year collectively bought fans and ice pops to donate so the kids were cool enough to concentrate. It's not acceptable." — **Cato-Meridian**

"It is frequently hotter than 80 degrees in my classroom with high humidity. The heat makes it hard to concentrate, leading to myself and my students feeling lethargic or disoriented. I dress as lightweight as possible while maintaining a professional wardrobe, but my clothes are frequently soaked through with sweat before the day is through leading to a great deal of discomfort."

— **Brentwood**

"I work on the third floor in the largest middle school in Syracuse. We have no air conditioning. I have a wall of six windows but only three windows open. This past week, the outdoor heat index was above 95, and the heat inside the classroom was unbearable. It was hard to breathe let alone participate in activities. Many staff and students complained of nausea and lightheadedness." — **Syracuse**

"Today my fan with temp gauge registered 97 degrees by my desk. We were told we would have classroom air conditioners this school year. Then we were told the electrical system would not be able to handle that, but NO timeline was given. I doubt it will happen within the next 5 years. I've been teaching on the second floor of my building for 28 years." — **Valley Central**

"All classrooms need air conditioning. Most schools in our area have it. Not great for students' and teachers' health — not only for breathing, but also the spreading of germs. Most NYC DOE schools prioritize air conditioning and air circulation and it's embarrassing that we do not."

— **Valley Central**

"My classroom is on the second floor of the building and the room gets incredibly hot and stuffy. The students are extremely lethargic and cannot pay attention for long periods of time. They cannot concentrate in the hot classroom, and they also need more water than they have with them! Their lack of energy is a concern!" — **Central Islip**

"I teach in the upstairs wing of our school in a south-facing room. During the first two days, the heat in my room was oppressively hot. Students were sluggish and not engaged due to this heat. Years ago, the district installed new windows which only open a fraction and the district does not allow them (despite no person getting into these windows) to be left open at night. So, the heat is only intensified and is very slow to dissipate."

— **Amherst**

"On Thursday, May 12th, my classroom ranged from 77 to 80 degrees all day. On Friday, May 13th, it reached 81 degrees." — **Carthage**

"Wednesday September 6th, it hit 99 degrees in our classroom. On Sept 7th, it hit 105 degrees and September 8th it was only 94 degrees. Not permitted to go outside where it was hot but not as bad as the classroom. I don't even have the hottest room. Teachers on the east side are usually at least 5 degrees warmer. Sitting at my desk before the students came in, sweat was pouring down my face. How do they expect students to learn in that environment? Guess it's hard to imagine when all administrators have A/C." — **Central Islip**

"My classroom is above the Hills West cafeteria and the vents to the cafe are directly outside my window. Not only is my room unbearable in hot weather, but we also cannot open the windows without bringing in low quality hot smelly air. I only got an air conditioner due to a student of mine. Every room should have an air conditioner. End of story!" — **Half Hollow Hills**

"Teaching is challenging when everything goes as planned and when all students and staff have their basic needs met. We navigate poverty, learning deficits, COVID-19 masking options, behavioral management, technology, social-emotional health, and more. We do this in a building that

is outdated and doesn't meet the demands of our climate and its persistent warming trend. My classroom and many nearby have south facing windows that look into an enclosed courtyard with brick walls. On any given sunny day my classroom easily reaches 80 degrees by 11am. To ensure it does not get warmer, I must keep the windows closed (there is no airflow from them anyway) and I must keep the blinds closed. Students, laptops, and I are overheated early. Moreover, the warmth does not diminish overnight, and many times we're starting the next day over 70 degrees. Don't forget to add body and heat from all the 1-1 devices as each day progresses. My favorite quote about this is, 'I don't want to say it's hot in here but, two Hobbits just ran by and threw a ring inside!'. Now let's note that students travel around the building and visit some of the cooler rooms and air-conditioned rooms. I teach in the room all day. This is a long-standing concern. As a union we have frequently asked for help. I have asked for help from various administrators. Typically, this concern is overlooked or minimized. I seek out favors from friends in cooler rooms with no class at the time or try to grab a coveted reservation with the librarian ... instead of focusing on the needs of the students in my classroom. In a district with a reasonably high poverty rate, I don't know that asking taxpayers for air conditioning at work when they may not have it at home is reasonable. But I do know that if health and wellness is a priority, that this should be a part of the conversation. The lack of temperature control options in this heat will not allow for those who wish to continue to wear masks to do so reasonably without compromising our wellness. Sad really, after all the work we've done to live through and with the pandemic. Fans? To blow around the stale humid air potentially with COVID in it? Something to ponder when your phone overheats ... it tells you. When your car overheats, you get a warning light. We take snow days, too cold days, sick and mental health days, bereavement days, why not heat days/humidity days? What is a reasonable temperature to work and learn? OSHA says it's 68-76 degrees with humidity range of 20-60%. We get grants for sports/athletic facilities, new roads, and technology. Let's focus on the basic air that we breathe. It seems like a viable priority to me."

— **Brockport**

"This week has been unbearable in the classroom. Thursday by the end of the day my classroom reached 96 degrees. Students had constant headaches and needed many trips to the nurse. With temperatures this high neither the kids nor I had any motivation to learn!"

— **Central Islip**

"I teach high school in a room on the second floor where it is hot all year round due to uneven inefficient heating system. The first weeks and last weeks of the school year are especially brutal with my room reaching temperatures in the high 80s to low 90s. There are no fans unless you bring in your own but it's no use anyway because it's not enough to cool down and instead creates noise that makes it

challenging to hear the kids. My room reached 93 degrees this week. The kids are lethargic, getting headaches and I personally end up getting lightheaded with headaches myself. It feels dangerously hot and being in that condition for several hours is also nauseating. It's inhumane at this point. I have pictures of my digital thermostat showing the high temperatures as well." — **Brentwood**

"Our school was supposed to get the central air fixed with an approved budget. That never happened due to issues that they tried to hide. Parents got together to get donations of money for fans, popsicles or bought the fans and popsicles to be donated at the end of the school year this past June. We were trying to have enough fans for each classroom. My son came home sick one day from the heat. There needs to be a change to help the students and the staff." — **Cato-Meridian**

"The beginning of the school year is always a very exciting time for me, but this year it has been a regretful one due to the extreme heat! The students could not concentrate and pay attention because they were so hot and sweaty. The kids with special needs were having a very hard time, and some were screaming all day. They constantly complained about the heat. It has been painful to watch the kids looking so helpless in these conditions. I am sure we can solve this problem by providing us with an air conditioning unit. Please provide our schools with A/C units so we can provide a better teaching environment for all our students."

— **Central Islip**

"Second story of concrete building. 90-degree max temp on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9/5 and 9/6. 91.5 degrees right now (1:15 p.m.) on Thursday, 9/7. Students and teachers are wilting and having a difficult time focusing."

— **Half Hollow Hills**

"These classrooms last week the first two days of school were over 80 degrees the district spent the money on a new playground instead of A/C." — **Cato-Meridian**

"My classroom has been at 85 degrees or above the last four days (it's only May). The forced-air heating system blows in my room all day, I have informed the engineer and administration. Their solution was to give me a fan that is as loud as a jet engine (obviously hyperbole) and blows papers, posters, and other classroom items around the room without impacting the temperature." — **Buffalo**

"I have an interior room, so no windows. I have no control over the heat in my room either. Sometime last year, it was so warm in my room, kids were falling asleep. I was sweating, and I couldn't keep the kids interested. It was so uncomfortable. I asked for something to be done. I was told nothing can be done. I can't teach like that. I've been begging this year to not change anything. I dress in layers every day just in case. It's awful." — **Half Hollow Hills**

"The classroom is located on the second floor with direct eastern sunlight. The temperature in the room was unbearable and does not cool down with multiple fans running." — **Central Islip**

"Third-floor corner classroom out in three floor building. Corner, westward facing room with large storm windows radiating heat. Students frequently need breaks for drinks, to wipe down desks, etc." — **Amherst**

"My classroom gets really hot during the months of May, June, September and October. Because the heat rises my classroom is on the second floor and at times it's unbearable. Students are fatigued because of the heat and that makes them tired and with no motivation to learn."

— **Central Islip**

"I am a special education consultant teacher in a small urban district so not only are the classrooms 85 degrees or more, but many of our students don't also have money to afford clothes that are appropriate for the weather they should be dressing for. It is unbearable and exhausting for the grown-ups, but more importantly, the students should not be falling asleep, unable to concentrate and feeling stifled due to unrealistic temperatures and working conditions." — **Cohoes**

"Today was unbearable..The thermometer read 88 degrees in the classroom I teach in, which doesn't account for the humidity. I have been dealing with this for 20 years. How can we get students to be motivated to learn in conditions like this? Dreading having to go back tomorrow. This needs to change." — **Copiague**

"My classroom is very small. I only have a max of five students at a time, and when it is warm you can see that the students get tired and have low energy. I feel this way all day and am exhausted by the end of the day. The classroom next door to me is another small room and is always cold. It is frustrating that there is no balance between the rooms."

— **Half Hollow Hills**

We do not have students until Thursday but we had meetings today and tomorrow. I have an issue with outlets in my room and only have one fan. It was 87 in my room today. I drank over 100 ounces of water to keep hydrated. The main office and all administration offices have A/C. I'm exhausted from the heat today and each day this week is supposed to get hotter until Friday. These conditions are awful!

— **Liberty**

"The inside temperature of the classroom today and yesterday was 100 degrees. After three days of this weather, I started to feel like I was going to vomit by the end of the day today. I have five fans in my room that just blew hot air. We are in the year 2023, and we shouldn't have to work in these conditions, especially when the rest of the workforce works in air-conditioned environments. This needs to change!" — **Central Islip**

"Our classrooms are above the 88 degrees on hot days."

— **Cato-Meridian**

"It is unbearably hot, and students can't concentrate."

— **Baldwin**

"This week has been brutal for both me and my students. I went home with a headache and nauseous. The children were so hot that they were exhausted by the end of the day. We were able to have A/C before Covid, and there are no valid reasons why we cannot have it now." — **Central Islip**

"It had to be go in my classroom today, and my kids couldn't learn, simple as that." — **Half Hollow Hills**

While I know most people are probably writing stories about the heat and the need for air conditioning, I am writing about how we need heat on in the winter. From September to May (sometimes June), I must wear my winter coat. I keep hand warmers in my desk that I use on a regular basis because it is so cold in class. I often leave work with a headache because I am so tense trying to stay warm. I cannot wear enough layers. I joke with people about needing a wardrobe of coats because I wash the few coats I have repeatedly because I cannot take them off due to being so cold. It is terrible. When June comes, I am at ease because I can take my coat off, but then I get placed in a location where there is air conditioning in the building to proctor an exam. I then have to bring my coat to proctor in air conditioning. In my view, we need heat." — **Brockport**

"My classroom has been extremely hot; it feels hotter in the classroom than outside." — **Central Islip**

"I work in the occupational and physical therapy room in two different school districts. There is no A/C unit or fan; temperatures are 80 or higher in the classroom. Students should not be expected to perform physical activities in this. The special education classroom in Bainbridge Guilford was so hot that the students had red faces, were sweating, and laying their heads down. It's so unbearable. I wish something could be done to help the students. Very strange that the offices have A/C but not the classrooms."

— **Delaware Academy and Bainbridge-Guilford**

"Second floor, south facing windows. Can't open the windows because I have to keep the shades down to keep the sun out. Class temperatures can be well over to 90 in June and September." — **Hilton**

"Students started classes today, Sept. 5th. Horseheads does not have A/C in any of the classrooms. The upper floor classrooms facing the courtyard do not get any ventilation or breeze — just stagnant air. By the afternoon today, my classroom, which is on the first floor and facing the street, was so humid and hot, the floors had condensation. I had to caution students to walk carefully around the room lest they slip and fall on the wet floor. My students looked exhausted and drained. Making the first day engaging and fun was

nearly impossible as I was also feeling miserable. I promised them it would get better realizing I had no idea how it would. Several students asked to go to the nurse because they felt dizzy and nauseous. I've been teaching for 33 years, and I don't remember an opening day that was this challenging. The students were troopers. They didn't really complain, but I could tell they were struggling. The hard part is I know this will only get worse in years to come." — **Horseheads**

"July 20th our classroom hit 96 degrees. July 21st a comfortable 86. This is an exceptionally hot week."

— **Corning-Painted Post**

"The temperature and humidity were so high that the floors in my classroom developed a thin layer of water and were extremely slippery." — **Huntington**

"When students become too hot, they cannot concentrate. Our district has refused to provide air conditioners, even to those teachers with medical needs or accommodations. They believe the univent systems are sufficient. They are not air conditioners, nor do they cool the air. We see increased student behaviors and decreased student focus and attention when the rooms are hot. Please help our students focus because they have already lost enough learning due to the mishandling of education during COVID-19."

— **Central Islip**

"87 degrees F today in my 2nd floor classroom. The two fans I brought to school just blew the hot air around. Unbearable. Students were comatose!" — **Horseheads**

"Tuesday 9-5 = 88 degrees. Wednesday 9/6/23 = 86 degrees. 9/7/23 = 86 degrees in the classroom."

— **Coxsackie-Athens**

"My classroom has been over 90 degrees this week. Students are unable to focus on learning in this heat."

— **Croton-Harmon**

"The temperature in my classroom was 100 degrees because of the greenhouse effect from having a classroom at the end of the building. The windows on the east side form a corner with the windows on the South side. The students were so hot. We spent the entire time going to the bathroom or getting water to cool off. On my lunch break I splashed myself with water and dried with a towel because I was so hot. I teach music and the kids, and I usually move to the songs but this week we could not. Everyone wanted to go home." — **Central Islip**

"School was renovated in 2011, and a new addition was built to the entire side of the building. One of the third-floor hallway roofs were built like a glass atrium and the corner rooms of the buildings were all built with glass-walled windows. The glass lets in a significant amount of direct sunlight, much like a greenhouse, and it is magnificently bright and beautiful just like a showroom catalog; however, there were no cooling units built into the renovation plans,

and the after units that were built barely distributed the blowing air coming out of them. They barely worked for one year, and then were deemed to be non-functioning. When direct sunlight hits the building, it heats up to unbearable temperatures (recorded 85-103 degrees) during the months of May, June, September and October." — **Buffalo**

"June 8, 2021: humidity up to 61 percent and temps up to 88. June 9, 2021: humidity up to 55 percent, temps up to 88." — **Hempstead**

"Wednesday, September 6 - 88 degrees. Thursday, September 7 - 88 degrees. Friday, September 8 - 88 degrees." — **Westhampton Beach**

"Hot, humid, limited air flow, 25+ students create even more heat." — **Westhampton Beach**

"You can't turn the lights on anymore once the temp gets over 75 ... the humidity is absolutely killer, and you can only look at a classroom of kiddos with beet-red faces and dripping sweaty hair for a second before you realize they can't learn anything this way. Even portable air conditioners would do the job for not too much money in energy costs for the six weeks or so a year we would need them." — **Hamburg**

"My room temperature is typically in the 80s with humidity in the 60s." — **Islip**

"The first day of school my classroom was 88 degrees with 54 percent humidity. Second day, today, 78 degrees with 74 percent humidity. With all my fans running there was no relief. Students and teachers felt dizzy and sick to our stomachs. Not a great way to start the year." — **Depew**

"Today was the first day of school for our pre-K kids at 303 Academy of Excellence. We entered the school to find out three of the four classrooms do not have working A/C. Two of the classrooms, according to the secretary, have not been working for years and nothing has been done about it. Today was well over 95 degrees. The teachers could not bear it and finished the orientation earlier than expected. Our kids are 3- or 4-year-olds sitting in a class with extreme conditions. It sounds like there are a lot of layers of management the school is having trouble working with to resolve and mentioned the cost to fix is more than the A/Cs. As one of the district's top schools, we were shocked at the conditions our little kids endure. The room was well over legally allowed 68 degree that is considered safe for our kids. There are kids with asthma concerns who are forced to deal with this situation. Please help us! Our kids are suffering in this environment. There was no communication sent out to the parents about the poor conditions of the school. This school is also under heavy construction, so the window open also allows debris and dust to fly in causing more hazard and harm to our children." — **New York City**

"Only two of my windows open, and I am unable to open them myself, so I need to wait for a custodian. No A/C of course. I have four fans that don't do much. I keep the lights off as much as possible. Very little airflow — no breeze."

— **Central Islip**

"90-plus degrees today. Felt like I was going to pass out a couple times." — **Crown Point**

"Our building has no A/C. We have a thermometer inside to measure the temperature and it is reading 88 degrees this week. Our kids can't focus, engagement has gone down, they're not able to learn when they're overheated. Many of the kids are complaining of feeling faint and dizzy. We supply them with water bottles, water breaks, we have fans, but they become so loud it's hard to hear the teacher or students. Why is A/C in a school building so rare? These buildings should be the first to have A/C. How can we expect our students to want to come to school when it's hotter inside than it is outside?" — **Syracuse**

"My classroom is the hottest in the school. It must be over 100 degrees when we walk in when all the windows are closed. I have asked about it and was told that this is what it is. This classroom has always been the hottest in the winter and coldest in the summer months because it is closest to the heating system. I try to open the window and sometimes I can open it but not always. They are very heavy. When the windows are open, the temperature is a little better with cross ventilation, but it depends on wind outside. Even with the windows open, it's too hot. I have a class of children on the spectrum in grades 3-5. Sometimes they wear sweatshirts under their coats and will not take them off. It's very difficult to work with the children in this extreme heat. I like to be active and cannot move without sweating. The faces of the children are red, and I try not to overheat them. I have a student who will get so hot and just lay on the floor. These working conditions are poor, and the children and I are expected to work in this room all day, while the people I asked for help get to walk out and get fresh air. It's unfair. The children I work with do not understand what is wrong and cannot voice their feelings. They cannot tell me if they are too hot or not feeling well. Instead, they act out (hit, cry, avoid tasks). There are days that I just cannot think — I can only imagine how the children feel." — **New York City**

"My classroom is south facing and extremely hot in May/June and September months. I have received blinds that have helped; however, I have 4 fans in the classroom to circulate the air. I previously worked in an elementary school that was air conditioned (in the same district). My middle school students, who do not have air conditioning in their room, definitely struggle to focus during the hotter months." — **Webster**

“Warm and very humid conditions are an issue in my classroom but cold temperatures are a problem as well. My room is consistently below the 65-degree threshold set by SED. For example, on Friday (10/30) my room was only 60 degrees. Maintenance attributed the problem to air in my pipes, which was released on Friday around noon time. The room warmed to approximately 68 by the end of the day. This was the third time that air was released. Today (11/2) I entered my room in the morning to discover the room was 55. Again, air was released from the pipes at 11:15. The room subsequently warmed to 61. I have documented this problem with my union rep, head of maintenance and principal since the beginning of September when outside temperatures cooled. Last year the room was often on the cool side. When I complained to the office, I was told 62 is close enough to 65.”
— Clyde-Savannah

“Today it was 87 degrees in my classroom by 11:30 a.m. I felt physically ill.” — Huntington

I teach on the 2nd floor where you can feel a temperature difference as you walk up the steps! The classroom temperature was extremely high. Only one window opens, and we barely had any breeze. Unfortunately, I have the few last periods to teach, and by the time we made it to the end the day, the kids were complaining about headaches and feeling nauseous. I even had students fall asleep! Even for myself, I tried to wear outfits that would not show my sweat because you couldn't help it dripping down your back. Cold water should have been given out to students or there could have been a shortened school day.” — Central Islip

“My classroom has no A/C and very little breeze from the windows being open. My students and I are dripping sweat all day. It's probably over 90 degrees in the building.”
— Patchogue-Medford

“Office temp can reach 85 degrees and lack of ventilation in our gym can cause temps to rise. Stale stuffy and humid conditions. We were hitting 80 plus in the gym.”
— East Meadow

“Way too hot for any classroom. My second-floor classroom got temperatures readings of 104 in a sunny location and 89 in a non-sunny location. The conditions are unbearable for learning.” — Westhampton Beach

“Our classrooms do not have a thermostat that we can control, and there's no air conditioning. I've been teaching for over 15 years and on numerous occasions, the room is warmer than 80 degrees in September, October, May and June. It makes the learning environment uncomfortable and less productive. The heat makes students and teachers feel lethargic, even more so by the end of the day. It can be draining. Some students have fainted or experienced heat exhaustion. Over the years I've purchased multiple box fans for circulation. The schools should provide fans at the bare minimum.” — West Islip

“Our classroom temperature is sometimes in the nineties. Would you like to work in an environment like this? I know our students, teachers, and other support staff are not very productive these days.” — Central Islip

“I've since left the field, but in my previous school district, there was no A/C in any of the buildings. Last school year, I was eight months pregnant during a heatwave in June where temperatures reached up to 100 degrees, and the heat index was close to 110 degrees. To make matters worse, I was a resource room teacher, and my 'classroom' was essentially a coat closet with no windows on the top floor of the building (since heat rises, my floor always got the hottest). This meant that, even with a doctor's note confirming my medical need for A/C, the best my school could do was give me a tabletop fan for my desk since, in a room without any windows, there was nowhere to install an A/C unit. Especially with the then-mask requirements, I almost fainted at work daily. Furthermore, the high humidity made the tiled floors in the building very slick, and I almost slipped several times, even with proper footwear. The lack of A/C was torturous and very well could have put me and my baby's life at risk.” — Hyde Park

“We spent 4 days in 90-degree temperatures with 17 ... 4-year-olds. It was so hot that we felt sick to our stomachs. I paid for water and ice to be put in my classroom to ensure the kids got ice cold water. We brought 3 fans from home and then we said our TA had a heart attack in school a few years back and that this heat is making her unwell. When we asked if we could pay for our own air conditioner or request from facilities with a medical note, we were told not to bother because we wouldn't be granted permission to use it.” — Syracuse

“Arriving in my classroom at 7:30 am, my classroom thermometer read 88 degrees. By midafternoon, my classroom was 94 degrees. My windows were open, and fans were being used. I gave my students very frequent water breaks as they were hot, too.” — Central Islip

“My classroom reached a temperature of 91 degrees.”
— Central Islip

“At a high of 90 with a feel like of 96 degrees, an adult and 17 children are in one non-air-conditioned room with fans and an air purifier with fan attached running, that's what many classrooms had to endure this past Wednesday. After copious amounts of water, Gatorade and Propel (those include electrolytes) I went home feeling sick, lightheaded with a pounding headache. I called my doctor and went in, and I was diagnosed with dehydration and heat exhaustion from doing my indoor job. Imagine how these children feel and how their bodies react in extreme temperatures, due to warm outdoor temperatures that lead to EXTREME classroom temperatures. If a grown adult, who has more opportunity to drink fluids due to being in charge of what they bring to school, has to visit a doctor after a school day.

If you believe any learning was done that day or my best lessons were given, I suggest you get out of your air-conditioned offices and come in sit in these sweltering buildings during the day from the start to the end of our contract time and then tell me if your opinion has changed."

— **Hamburg**

"I worked in Seneca falls school district for 13 years on a school bus as a monitor those buses temp would reach over 100 degrees the children would always act out on those days and not in a good way either I really believe all buses should have air conditioning too." — **Waterloo**

"The temperature in the classroom is over 100 degrees."

— **East Ramapo**

"Extreme heat during the late spring and late summer months have resulted in chronic migraines. My students cannot focus and often become lethargic or very behavioral. There is a loss of learning time due to excessive heat."

— **Half Hollow Hills**

"Temps in the low to mid 80s on second floor with no air flow. I am a staff member and parent, and the heat is absolutely ridiculous. It's uncomfortable to work in and students can't think." — **Hamburg**

"My classroom was 104 degrees at the end of the day today (9/6/23). My students were miserable, and I bet some went home not feeling well. We have no fans, no door stops, nothing." — **Westhampton Beach**

"It is 86 degrees and unbearably humid, no movement of air with doors and windows open. We have no fans and no air conditioning." — **Westhampton Beach**

"The WINDOWLESS classroom that I teach in had a temperature of 88 degrees on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2023. The 'air handler' in the ceiling does not work."

— **Westhampton Beach**

"I have been teaching this week in a classroom with five windows, one does not open. The thermometer is showing at 95 degrees, with 25 students in and out all day. Humidity is high and students are struggling to stay focused."

— **Westhampton Beach**

"My room was registering 88 degrees at 12:15 p.m. on 9/7/23. All windows were open and two fans were blowing. There was NO breeze coming through the windows at all. I have been dripping sweat. Students seem lethargic from the heat." — **Westhampton Beach**

"I've been in the same classroom for 13 years. I have six large windows that get direct sun all day. There is no air circulation, and the temperature is stifling! My thermostat is broken. I measured room temperatures in the 90s. My students are lethargic and find it hard to keep motivated as the heat takes over their minds! The worst part is my building just went through a \$22.5-million renovation and they did not allocate any of the monies to fixing the poor air quality and heat issues. Sometimes the boiler/heat is on when my classroom is 90 degrees!" — **Syracuse**

"88 degrees, plus 91 percent humidity = 113F Heat index in my science classroom. Students are listless and irritable. Focus is limited. Cognitive processing is slow. We're grinding it out because Regents and AP tests wait for no one." — **Westhampton Beach**

"At Grant, we welcomed students back to school with classrooms that had a heat index of 95 degrees. Six windows all opened, and a fan, and it didn't make a difference. Students were dripping in sweat. Staff had sweat seeping through their clothes." — **Syracuse**

"I teach on the second floor. It is stifling hot. Teachers and students are drenched in sweat. First day outfits showing sweat spots within the first hour of the day and only got worse. Students who struggle with appropriate behavior were having a harder time. They couldn't focus, couldn't drink enough water for how much they were perspiring." — **West Seneca**

"My classroom was over 100 degrees with students in it trying to learn. I am on the third floor, and my windows open to the black roof of the second floor Auditorium. It is oppressive. It makes for a very poor learning environment."

— **West Seneca**

"We make a candy bar wrapper for Father's Day. I had to freeze the candy bars because they were so soft and melted when we were trying to glue on the wrapper."

— **West Seneca**

"This week my classroom has been over 80 degrees daily. Yesterday it got up to 88 degrees. It was uncomfortable to say the least. I was dressed appropriately with tank style dresses and dripping in sweat. My students who do not understand the impacts of temperature and their clothing choice were wearing pants and often sweatshirts. This is an impossible condition to learn in. Each day I went home beyond exhausted. Air conditioning should be standard in all classroom settings!" — **Wayne**

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