



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR**

To: Chairs, House Committees on Education and Health Care, and Senate Committees on Education and Health and Welfare  
Michelle Thompson, Public Health Industrial Hygienist, Department of Health  
Courtney O'Brien, State Director of Safe and Healthy Schools, Agency of Education

From: Doug Hoffer, State Auditor  
Re: Radon Testing in Schools  
Date: 13 February 2026  
Cc: Jenney Samuelson, Secretary, Agency of Human Services  
Zoie Saunders, Secretary, Agency of Education  
Dr. Rick Hildebrant, Commissioner, Department of Health

Vermont schools should be healthy and safe environments in which to learn and work. While the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) merely recommends testing all schools for radon, the Vermont Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation requiring all Vermont public and approved independent schools to test. Because the testing requirement wasn't accompanied by a reporting requirement, neither the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) nor the Agency of Education has a comprehensive list of which schools complied with the requirement or the testing results. I asked my staff to research the extent to which schools complied with the results of the radon testing [law](#).

This memo is intended to provide a high-level summary of our findings and offer some lessons learned that could strengthen the transparency of radon reporting in Vermont schools. This is not an audit and was not conducted under generally accepted government auditing standards.

**Background**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in rocks, soil, and water that has no color, smell, or taste. Breathing air with radon increases the risk of developing lung cancer and is the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States after cigarette smoke. The EPA and Surgeon General's office estimate radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths a year in the United States. Children may have higher doses (amount breathed in) of radon than adults even when exposure is the same, due to children having different lung shapes and sizes and faster breathing rates.

While radon is present in outdoor air, radon levels can build up inside buildings. Unless a radon test is performed, there is no way of knowing if radon is present in a building. If radon levels are

found at or above 4.0 pCi/L, the EPA recommends taking action to lower the levels as shown in the chart below.

Radon Level	Recommended Action
0 -1.9 pCi/L	Test again in 5 years, or after any significant structural or mechanical change.
2.0 - 3.9 pCi/L	Consider mitigation.
> 4.0 pCi/L	Mitigate the affected area.

In 2021, the Vermont Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law [Act 72](#), which requires all public and approved independent schools to test for radon by June 30, 2024. Subsequently, [Act 166](#) was passed in 2022 granting schools an extension to complete testing by June 30, 2025. The radon testing had to adhere to ANSI/AARST protocol for conducting Radon and Radon Decay Products in Schools and Large Buildings<sup>1</sup> on any facility that had not been tested in five or more years. The statute also required schools to make the radon measurement results available to each employee and student at the school, although it did not specify how that should be done. VDH recommends schools take action when elevated radon is found.

### **Results of School Radon Testing**

VDH’s best practices for radon testing in schools include sending results to VDH, however schools were not required by statute to report results to the State. Therefore, the State does not have data on compliance with this statute. As such, we reached out to superintendents who have responsibility for 299 public schools<sup>2</sup>.

Our research found:

- 206 (69%) of public schools completed radon testing by June 30, 2025, as required.
- 218 (73%) of public schools completed radon testing as of January 31, 2026.
- Testing result notifications varied. Some schools sent letters to all families, some included the information in newsletters, and others posted the information on school websites. However, many schools that tested did not provide confirmation of notification.
- 20 schools had radon levels at or above the EPA recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L as shown in Exhibit 1.<sup>3</sup>

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### **Exhibit 1: Schools with Elevated Radon Levels**

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School District/Supervisory Union	School Name	pCi/L Level	Room Description
Bennington-Rutland SU	Currier Memorial School	4.1	Principal’s Room

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<sup>1</sup> [AARST Radon Standards](#)

<sup>2</sup> Our results are limited to Vermont public schools.

<sup>3</sup> These results do not include schools that had elevated radon results in initial testing but took remediation actions resulting in non-elevated results.

School District/Supervisory Union	School Name	pCi/L Level	Room Description	
Burlington SD	Sustainable Academy at Lawrence Barnes Elementary	13.6 7.9	Boiler Room Basement Storage	
	JJ Flynn Elementary School	12.1 7.7	Mechanical Room Boiler Room	
	Northfield Middle/High School	4.9	Room 161 (Floor 1)	
Central Vermont SU	Williamstown Middle/High School	4.6 4.4	Room 193 (Floor 1) Room 148 (Floor 1)	
	Canaan High School	6.5	Room 2138 (Teachers' Lounge)	
	Wells Village School	8.6 5.9 4.6	Basement (Back Office 2) Basement Tech Basement (Back Office 1)	
Harwood Unified Union SD	Warren Elementary School	7.0	Basement Custodial Office	
Lamoille North Unified SD	Cambridge Elementary School	4.3	Guidance Room	
	Eden Elementary School	10.0 7.6 7.2 6.0 5.3	Room 1 Room 6 Pre-K Special Ed Office Room 5	
		People's Academy	7.0 4.3	Sub-basement storage Trainer's Office (Gym)
		Brighton Elementary	5.2	Room 25
		Bradford Elementary School	7.8 7.3 6.9 4.8 4.7 4.7 4.6 4.6 4.5 4.1	Gym 174 Gym 174 (device 2) Room 162 Room 135 Room 133 Room 134 Room 132 Room 144 Room 154 IT Room 142
Newbury Elementary	6.1 5.9	Room 3 (basement/ground floor) – both tests		
River Bend Career and Technical Center	4.0 4.2	Cyber Security Classroom Room C149A		
Orleans Southwest SU	Craftsbury Elementary	4.4	CE Basement	
Slate Valley Unified SD	Orwell Village School	4.9	Room 401 (Pre-K)	
Windham Central SU	Leland & Gray School	6.1	Library Office 3	
	Townshend Elementary School	41.0	Basement Custodial Office	
Windham Southeast SU	The Oak Grove School	4.4	Room 12	

As shown in Exhibit 2, 63 schools did not complete radon testing by the statutory deadline of June 30, 2025, and still had not as of January 31, 2026. Some schools indicated they were scheduling testing, after our inquiry. Additionally, some schools did not respond at all. They are listed in Appendix I.

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**Exhibit 2: Schools that Haven't Performed Required Radon Testing**


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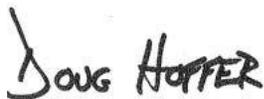
School District/Supervisory Union	School Name
Burlington SD	Burlington Technical Center Integrated Arts Academy
Caledonia Central SU	Barnet School Cabot School Danville School Peacham Elementary Twinfield Union School Walden Elementary Waterford Schools
Greater Rutland County SU	Proctor Elementary School Proctor Jr/Sr High School West Rutland School
Kingdom East SD	Burke Town School Concord School Lunenburg School Lyndon Town School Miller's Run School Newark Street School Sutton School
Montpelier Roxbury SD	Main Street Middle School Union Elementary School
Orange East SU	Blue Mountain Union School Waits River Valley School
Orleans Central SU	Albany Community School Barton Academy & Graded School Brownington Central School Glover Community School Irasburg Village School Orleans Elementary School Lake Region Union High School
Rivendell Interstate SD	Rivendell Academy Samuel Morey Elementary Westshire Elementary
Rutland Northeast SU	Barstow Memorial School Lothrop Elementary School Neshobe Elementary School Otter Creek Academy at Leicester and Whiting Otter Valley Union Middle/High School
SAU #70	Marion Cross School
Southwest Vermont Regional Technical SD	Southwest Tech
Two Rivers SU	Cavendish Elementary School Chester Andover Elementary School Green Mountain Union High School Ludlow Elementary School Mount Holly School
White River Valley SU	First Branch Elementary School First Branch Middle School Rochester Elementary School

School District/Supervisory Union	School Name
	Sharon Elementary School Stockbridge Elementary School The Newton School White River High School/South Royalton Elementary School White River Middle School/Bethel Elementary School
Windham Central SU	Marlboro Elementary School
Windham Northeast SU	Bellows Falls Middle School Central Elementary School Saxtons River Elementary School
Windsor Southeast SU	Windsor School Albert Bridge School Hartland School Weathersfield School
Winooski SD	JFK Elementary School Winooski Middle & High School

**Suggestions to Strengthen Compliance with Statutory Requirements**

- Require schools to report testing results to VDH. The State did not require schools to report the results of the radon testing. Collecting state-wide data and analyzing trends is important for evaluating radon safety in Vermont schools. It also provides opportunities for data-driven decision making and increased accountability and transparency.
- While we intended to gather information on all schools required by statute, we were able to identify lessons learned after contacting the public schools. We encourage VDH to reach out to the approved independent schools who are also required to complete radon testing to verify their compliance with statute.
- Schools were required to make the results of the radon testing available but guidelines on how that should be achieved (e.g., proactive community notification) were not provided. While some schools chose to notify staff and students, some interpreted the statute to mean results merely need to be made available upon request. Transparent communication is a key aspect to building community trust and maintaining healthy and safe schools.

Sincerely,



DOUGLAS R. HOFFER  
State Auditor

**APPENDIX I:**

While we made efforts to gather results from all public schools, we did not receive responses from the following schools and were therefore unable to confirm if they were in compliance with statute.

School District/Supervisory Union	School Name
Orange Southwest Unified SD	Brookfield Elementary Braintree Elementary Randolph Elementary Randolph Technical Career Center Randolph Union High School
Southwest Vermont SU	Arlington Memorial High School Bennington Elementary Fisher Elementary Mount Anthony Union High School Mount Anthony Union Middle School Molly Stark Elementary Monument Elementary Pownal Elementary Shaftsbury Elementary Woodford Hollow Elementary
Windham Northeast SU	Bellows Falls Union High School Grafton Elementary School Westminster Central School