



Building temperature awareness

Help save energy and the environment

Frequently asked questions (1 of 2)

• What environmental impact does heating and cooling buildings have?

Heating our schools with natural gas accounts for approximately 90% of our greenhouse gas emissions, further contributing to climate change. SD38 has committed to reducing our emissions and energy use to reduce our environmental impact.

• How are building temperatures controlled?

SD38 buildings are controlled and automated to provide efficient and safe operating temperatures for building users, according to occupant comfort guidelines and ASHRAE industry standards. Building temperatures are controlled by zones within schools. Temperature setpoints are reduced overnight when the building is unoccupied to save energy.

• What can I do if I'm too hot or cold?

How we feel regarding temperature is very personal. Where you sit, what clothing you wear, and what time of day it is can all change the way the number on the thermostat feels to you. Some people might feel hot while others feel cold. If you're too hot or cold, try these tips:

- **Wear layers** of clothing
- **Adjust blinds:** keep closed in hot weather and open in cold weather
- **Close doors** when heating/cooling is turned on

• What can I do if I'm too cold early in the mornings?

The heating system is activated during school days early in the morning. If you're too cold if you arrive early in the morning, the heating system may just need a bit of time to kick in. Try wearing a sweater instead of placing a work order request.



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Frequently asked questions (2 of 2)

• Can I adjust the thermostat?

Some schools have thermostats, which are now used to control zones within a building rather than an individual zone. If you see the thermostat is set above 23 degrees C, please change it to below 22 degrees C if you can adjust the thermostat.

• What can I do if my building is still too hot or cold?

Consider if this is a persistent issue. If it is a particularly hot or cold day, the building systems may take a bit longer to catch up with seasonal temperature fluctuations. If the issue is ongoing, you can report an issue directly to your administrators.

• How can I report an issue?

If your building is not working the way it typically does, let us know via your administrators. Only administrators are able to submit service requests to the Facilities Services Team. When placing a service request, please have the following information available:

- What is your exact location (building and room number)
- Are you feeling too hot or too cold? How long has this been going on?
- What is the temperature at the nearest thermostat?
- How large is the affected area? What type of space is affected?

• What about ventilation and health and safety considerations?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SD38 is paying special attention to air quality in our schools. We have increased ventilation and improved HVAC systems in our schools to enhance health and safety. As our schools were not designed to meet these extra heating and ventilation levels, some schools may have some trouble keeping up with increased heating demands. Please be patient as we work through service request issues to help keep you safe, comfortable, and sustainable.

Our facilities team will work hard to solve major problems. But we also need you to do your part!