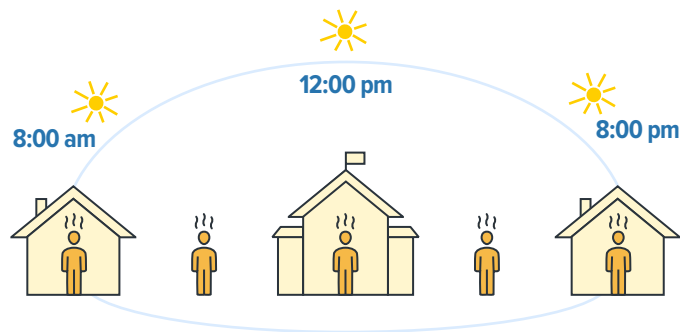


Safeguarding Kids by Cooling Homes and Schools

RESEARCH BRIEF

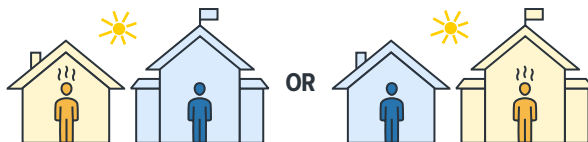
Without cooling at home or school, a hot child can't cool down.



As California warms, cooling systems in homes and schools are a **public health necessity—not a luxury**. In a new report titled, *Keeping Children Safe by Cooling Homes and Schools in California*, our researchers provide a [menu of policy options](#), informed by new data from the 2025 Luskin California Poll, for California lawmakers to consider the installation and maintenance of air conditioning and other cooling systems to protect kids where they spend most of their time.

Cooling homes and schools protects children's health, learning, and development.

Cooling systems at home **or** school can give children a chance to cool off...



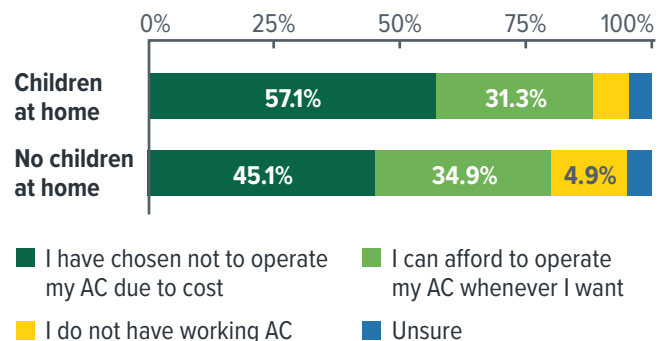
...but the only way children will never be **too hot** is to cool homes **and** schools.



Half of California's caretakers have kept kids home from school due to heat.

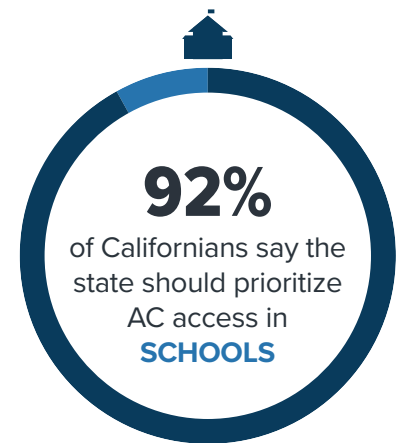
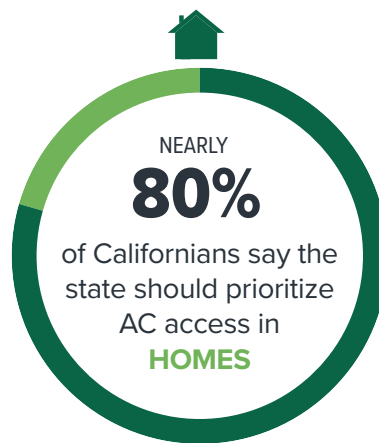
Yet many households with kids don't have AC or cannot run it due to high energy costs. Thus, some families depend on schools to provide cool spaces for kids—which doesn't work if schools are hot, too.

Many homes with children can't run AC—or don't have it



Total respondents: 2,419 | Childless: 1,526, Children present: 893

Californians want the State to prioritize supporting the installation and maintenance of air conditioning in whomes and schools.



What can the State do to help Californians install and maintain cooling systems?

1. UPDATE INDOOR MECHANICAL COOLING STANDARDS

Example: Establish maximum indoor temperatures in homes and schools to serve as a baseline for local jurisdictions to protect kids.

2. MAKE INDOOR COOLING ACCESS (AND DISPARITIES) TRANSPARENT WITH BETTER DATA

Example: Track cooling systems access and use in schools, like California does in homes.

3. FORMALIZE INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION ON HEAT EXPOSURE SETTING MANAGEMENT

Example: Appoint a state-level advisory committee to coordinate and share data among the numerous agencies that oversee cooling systems installation and maintenance.

4. REFINE COMMUNICATIONS AND MESSAGING ABOUT COOLING SYSTEMS

Example: Centralize public information and resources to promote equitable access to state and federal funds for the installation and maintenance of cooling systems.

5. FUND INDOOR MECHANICAL COOLING

Example: Fund existing programs that support equitable access to indoor cooling by serving high-need schools, homes, and regions. This can maintain momentum to protect kids from heat regardless of federal priorities.

6. IMPLEMENT, UPGRADE, AND MAINTAIN COOLING SYSTEMS EQUITABLY

Example: Collaborate with community-based organizations and regional leaders to prioritize investments in high-need areas.

To learn more about these policy options, see [Keeping Children Safe by Cooling Homes and Schools in California](#).