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EDUCATION

Air purifiers installed this week in Alachua County schools to combat COVID-19



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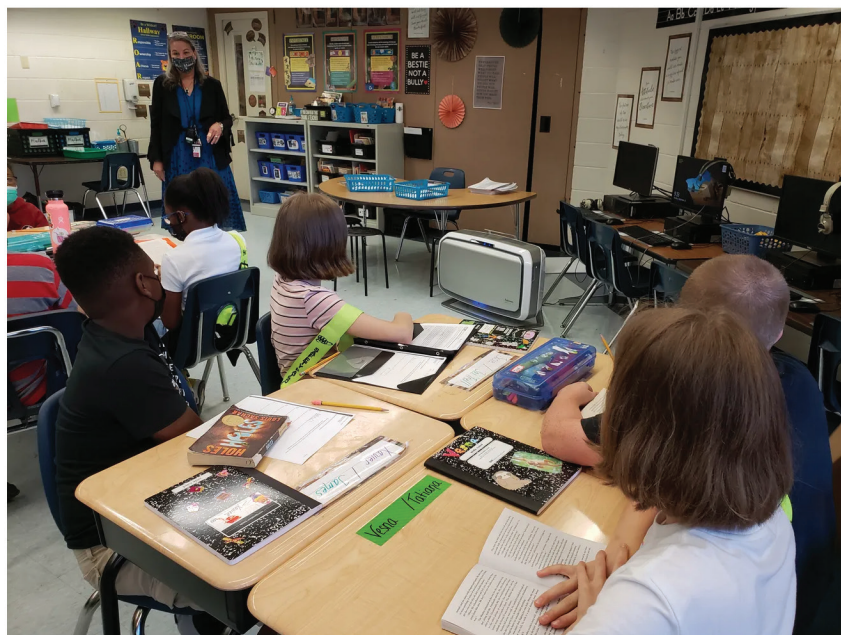


In an effort to combat COVID-19, Alachua County Public Schools has purchased air purifiers that will help reduce the spread.

The installation of 1,700 air purifiers in all classrooms throughout the district is expected to be complete by the end of the week.

The purifiers cost the district approximately \$2.8 million. The money is coming the federal COVID-19 funds.

According to the press release, the air purifiers — the AERAMax Pro 4 units — were created for classroom spaces and the machines can circulate air three to five times each hour and remove 99.7% of airborne particles. Yes, this includes the virus that causes COVID-19.



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Experts in ventilation and air quality from the University of Florida College of Medicine and the College of Engineering were in discussion with the district on what air purifier would be right for the schools.

"There was a lot of research we did on the unit, that would be the most appropriate for a school setting because not all air purifiers are appropriate," said Jackie Johnson, spokeswoman for Alachua County Schools. The machine was tested by a third party to ensure it helps fight COVID-19 before entering the school district.

The air purifiers don't require installation other than plugging it into an electrical outlet.

The school district will also look into ways they can purify the air in larger areas such as cafeterias and media centers.