

## CASE STUDY

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CLIENT: Clarke County School District

LOCATION: Athens, Georgia



### The Challenge

Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary School serves the needs of Pre-K to Fifth Grade students in Athens, Georgia. However, indoor air quality was causing havoc on young and developing respiratory systems. “We’ve had concerns with allergens in our building,” says Dr. Scarlett Dunne, principal at the school. “We also have quite a few children who have asthma—that’s what prompted us to look at air quality and begin to have a conversation with our plant services department.”

According to Kimberly Thomas, Executive Director for Plant Services and Custodial Operations for the Clarke County School District, which oversees operations at Oglethorpe, those conversations came at an opportune time. “We received complaints from staff members that, at the end of the day, they felt lethargic, and some were having lingering respiratory issues,” she says. “They felt that allergies weren’t going away.” Thomas worked with the elementary school officials and did an assessment of the overall air quality, including a comprehensive look at the HVAC system. Still, they knew they had to do something different.

### The Solution

In a pilot program, the school district installed Fellowes® AeraMax® Pro commercial grade-air purifiers in selected classrooms at Oglethorpe. Since AeraMax Pro air purifiers remove up to 99.97 percent of airborne contaminants like

allergens, germs and viruses from indoor air, the facility team was confident that air quality would be quickly improved. And since the units are whisper quiet, the purifiers dispelled concerns from educators that the units would be distracting. Instead, the teachers and students soon forgot the air purifiers were even in the rooms.

### The Results

“Within the first week of installation, we could tell a difference in the rooms,” Dunne says. “There was a noticeable change...It smelled much fresher and we could see a difference in (the amount of) coughing and sneezing.” Teachers also noticed a difference, saying that students seemed more energized throughout the day. Additionally, a survey conducted by administration showed that the teachers also felt better. Likewise, conversations with parents revealed that the parents noticed a difference in their children’s health, with less asthma flare-ups.

An added benefit: “Not only did the parents and teachers recognize an immediate difference in fresher smelling air, but it also made it easier for our staff to clean those areas,” Thomas says. “We didn’t see the same level of dust.”

Based on the results of the pilot, officials say they will be installing more units in the school and are considering the program for other schools in the district.