

ELC Support for Screening and Testing to Reopen and Keep Schools Operating Safely

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West Virginia Immunization Summit
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Objectives

1. To inform on the intent of the ELC Reopening Schools award.
2. To describe the activities and outcome of this award.

ELC Reopening Schools Award

Through the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, funds were made available to jurisdictions by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) cooperative agreement in response to COVID.

Goals

- Encourage continuity and enhancement of existing COVID-related activities
- Establish screening testing programs in schools extending through the end of the school year and into summer activities and subsequent school year
- Maintain health departments' integral role in the screening testing ecosystem
- Ensure a holistic assessment and monitoring of disease burden

ELC Reopening Schools Award (continued)

Priorities Areas:

- Surveillance, Detection, and Response
- Prevention and Intervention
- Communication, Coordination, and Partnership

Project Period: April 2021 - July 2023

Target Setting:

- Schools (K-12) - public, private
- Childcare facilities

Activities and Objectives

- Provided COVID tests to schools to increase access to COVID-19 tests
- Purchased vehicles to offer on-site COVID testing
- Purchased portable air-filtration systems to improve air quality in West Virginia schools, childcare facilities, and school-based health centers
- Purchased sanitizing supplies to enhance environmental cleaning

Outcome

- COVID tests to K-12 schools = 29,752
- Vehicles:
 - 16 COVID mobiles vans to local health departments (LHDs)
 - Three COVID mobile vans and one SUV for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH), Center for Threat Preparedness (CTP)
- Distributed air-filtration systems to West Virginia schools, childcare facilities, and school-based health centers
- Distributed sanitizing supplies to West Virginia K-12 schools

COVID-19 Mobile Vans

- The vans provided to LHDs (16) and BPH, CTP (3) for school COVID testing events and community COVID testing



Photo credit: Mitch Sutton, Office of Governor Jim Justice

Air Flow System and Cleaning Supplies

- Through School Superintendents of all West Virginia public schools
 - Public Schools - 40/55 Counties
- Through the West Virginia Private School Coordinator
 - Private Schools - 24/55 Counties
- DHHR's list of childcare providers
 - Childcare providers - 41/55 Counties
- Through the WV Primary Care Association
 - School-Based Health Centers - 23/55 Counties

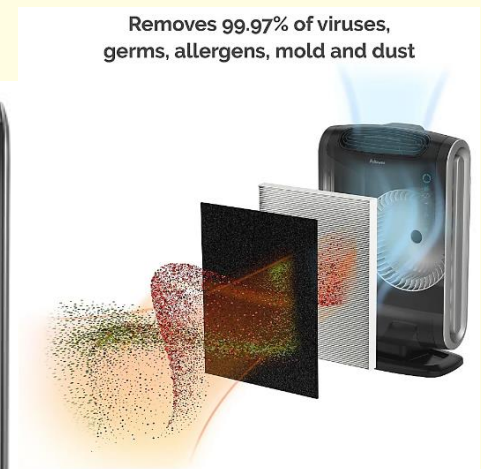
Air Purifiers

- Air purifiers improve air quality and reduce COVID-19 transmission and other airborne pathogens
- HEPA filter removes the source of allergens and irritants
- Active Carbon filter traps most odors and pollutants for cleaner indoor air quality

Air Purifiers = 17,292

HEPA Replacement Filters = 34,584

Carbon Replacement Filters = 34,584



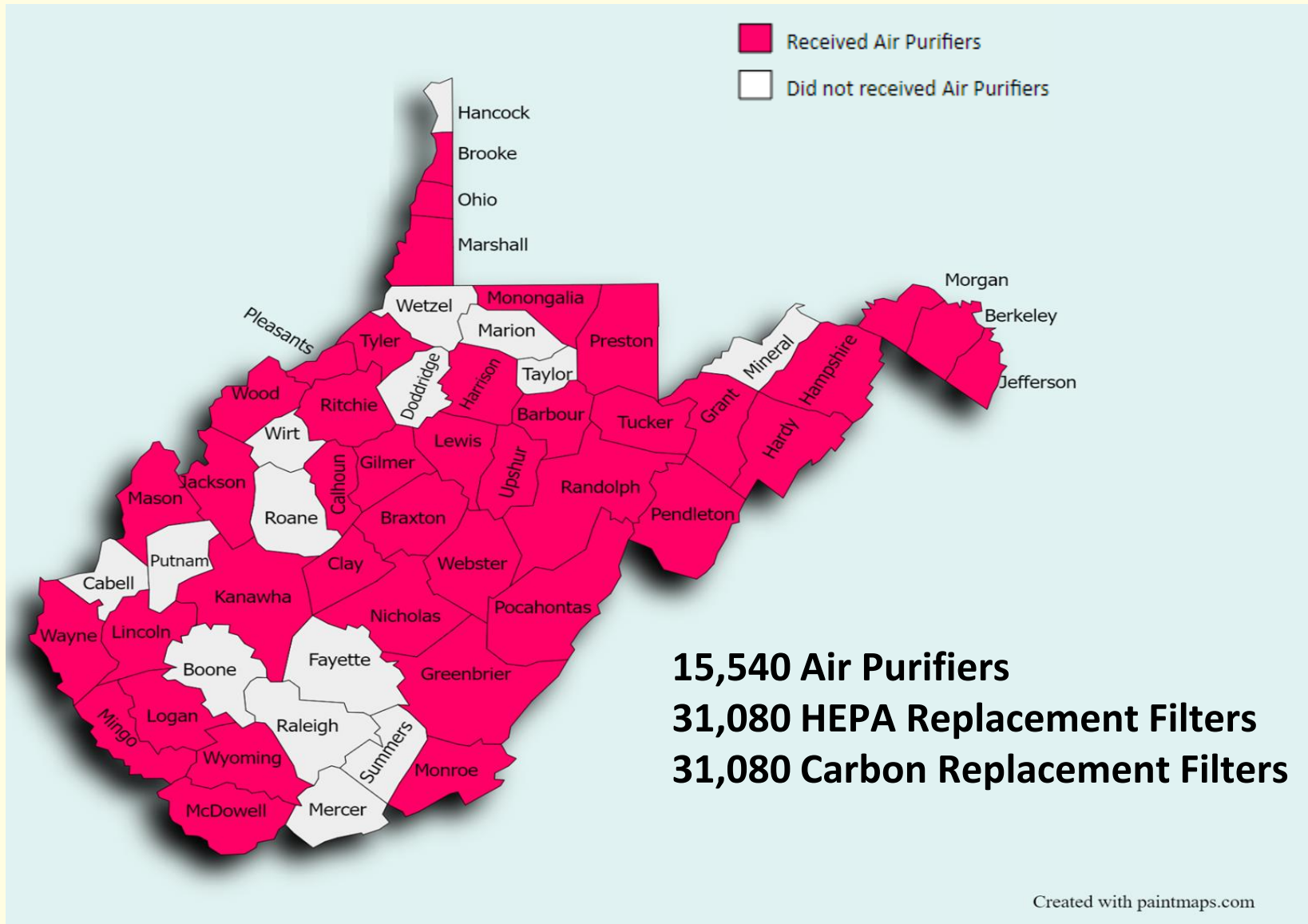
Other Items

- Oscillating fans = 3,280
- AAA batteries (fan remote control) = 3,280
- Disinfecting wipes = 17,044
- Hand sanitizing wipes = 28,605

Survey of 400 recipients:

- 42% response rate
- 30% of participants noticed significant improvement in the health of students
- 93% of participants placed their air purifier within a classroom
- 52% of participants gave positive feedback

Public Schools



Public School Testimonials

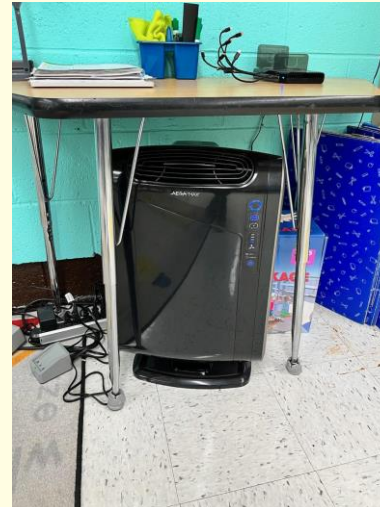
“The air purifier helped reduce dust and other particles in the air of my classroom. I noticed that my students and I did not catch colds, etc. from contagious students who attended class with noticeable symptoms. Between the air purifier use and the use of Lysol wipes to clean tables, I have been healthier even though I am in a new building environment.”

- *Braxton Co. High School teacher*

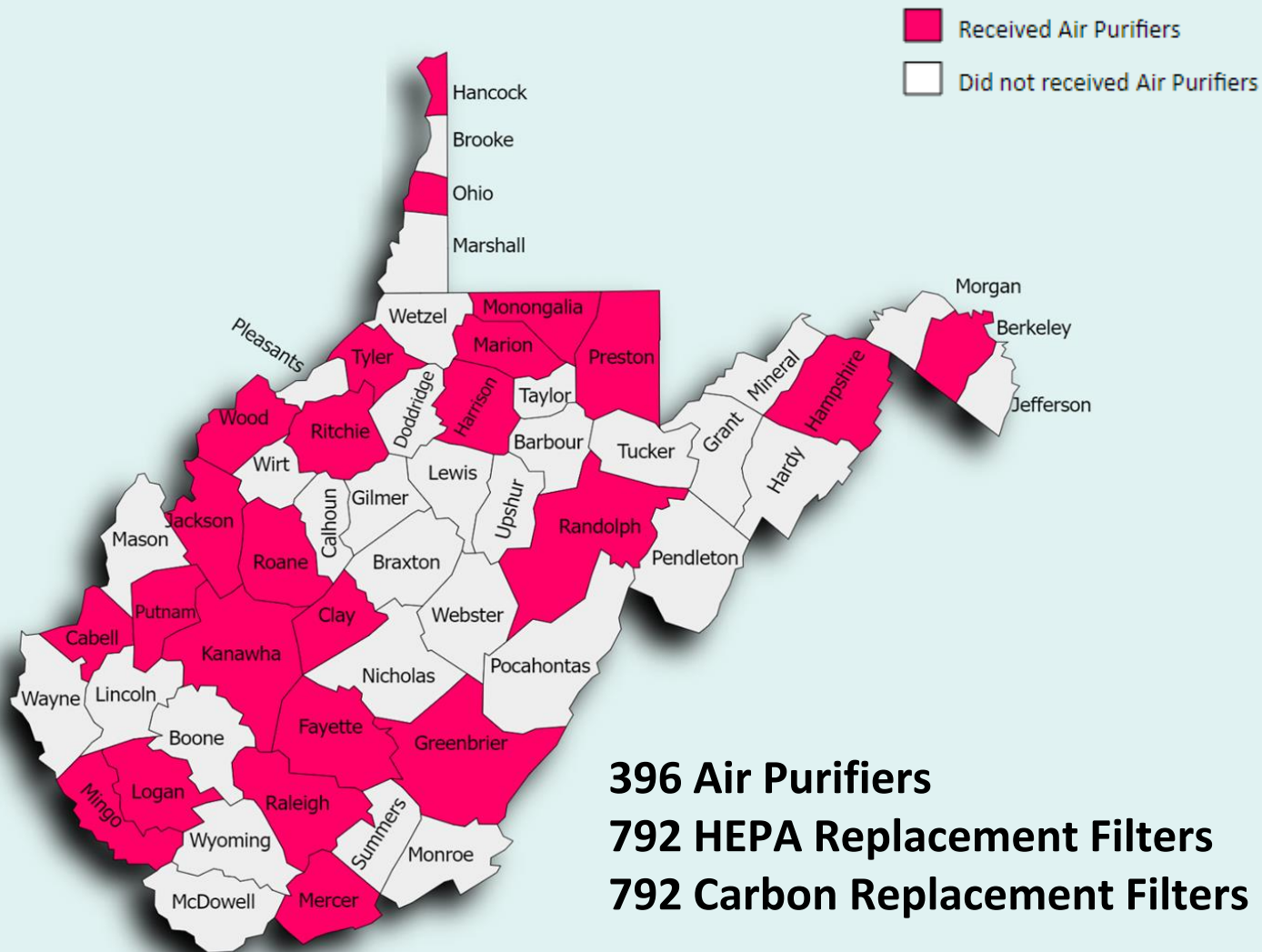


“Overall, very helpful for the environment of the classroom.”

- *Logan Middle School teacher*



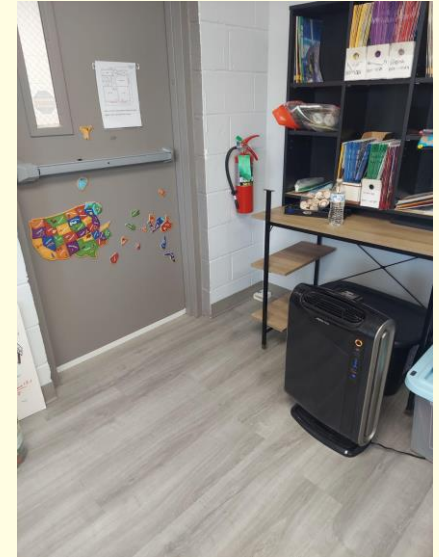
Private Schools



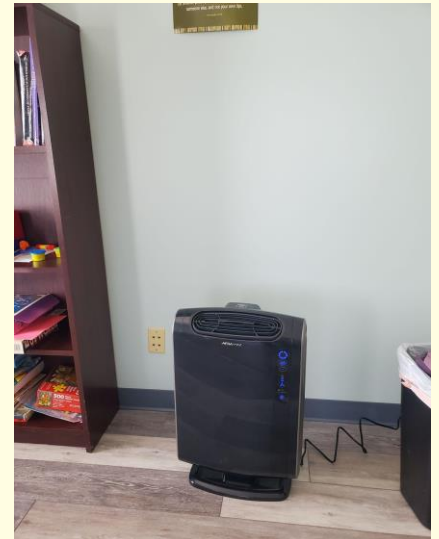
Private School Testimonials



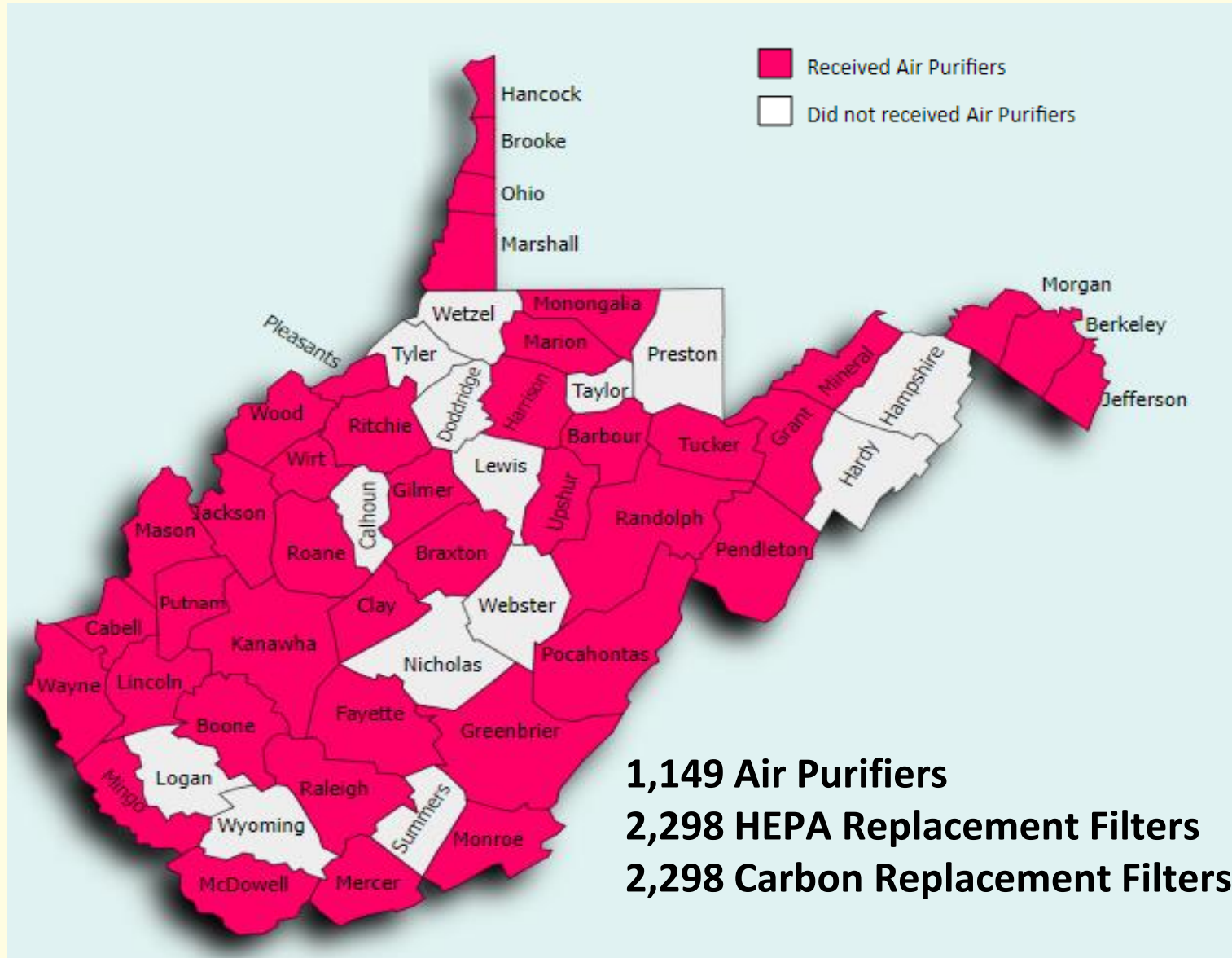
“I think it was a great idea to provide air purifiers for schools.” - *Greenbrier Valley Academy principal*



“We appreciate the purifiers.” - *Indian Creek Christian School principal*



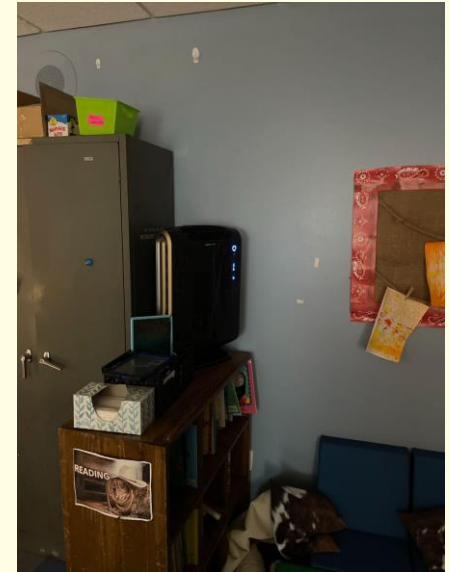
Childcare Facilities



Childcare Facility Testimonials

“Air purifiers are very helpful with the quality of air. It is nice not to have the smells that are associated with childcare, especially during diaper changing time.”

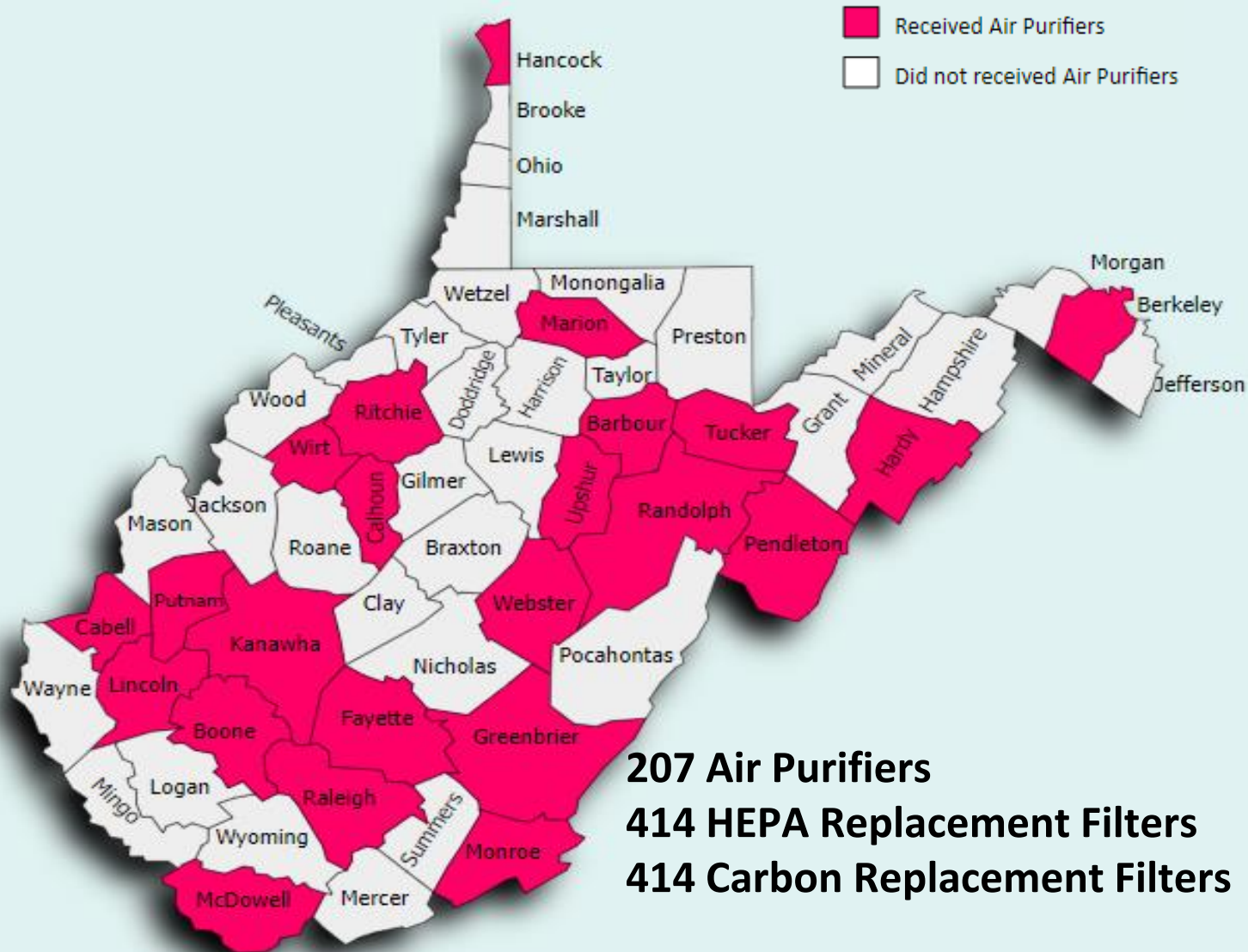
- *Early Education Station teacher*



“We appreciate all of the air purifiers for our classrooms. Since COVID, we have implemented additional health and safety protocols. The purifiers are something that we were hoping to purchase, and we were very happy when we were selected to receive them with the grant funds.”

- *Living Water Child Care branch director*

School Based Health Centers



Conclusion

The air purifiers, replacement filters, fans, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizing wipes has made a significant impact on the K-12 community.

Acknowledgement

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- Tim Priddy and team - CTP
- School Superintendents for WV Public Schools
- Dustin Lambert - WV Private Schools
- John Kennedy - WV Primary Care Association
- Other partners

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