

Air Quality Flag Program Central California



Improving Life, One Breath at a Time



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District



What is it?

The Air Quality Flag Program is a partnership with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the American Lung Association of Central California which is working to protect faculty, staff and students' exposure to poor outdoor air quality. The program offers an education as well as educational materials to administrators, school staff, students and parents on air quality and the health impacts of prolonged exposure of air pollution. The Air Quality Flag Program serves as a visual communication device to alert administrators, school staff, students, parents and the surrounding community of the daily air pollution risks by utilizing colored flags. The flag notification system corresponds directly to the health descriptors of the Air Quality Index (AQI).

Goal:

Improve the health of our school population thereby improving attendance and scholastic achievement.

Who Can Participate?

Schools in the Fresno, Kings, Madera, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare Counties. Initial schools expressing interest will be screened and selected on a number of factors. These factors include but are not limited to the air quality monitoring data; level of commitment to the project; history in promoting air quality awareness at the school and classroom levels; their ability to provide an effective liaison between program staff, educators, faculty, students and parents; and, a three year commitment to use the flags while school is in session. Initial schools will be selected based on historical air pollution levels for each county. The American Lung Association of Central California will confer with educators and civic leaders to identify schools in underserved populations where environmental justice concerns may apply.

Air Quality Flag Program

PLEDGE

The opportunity for schools to participate in the program is contingent on the ability to commit in writing to the following conditions. Participating schools will be selected based in part on their commitment to these conditions, community need and historical air pollution levels for their areas.

School district and/or participating school(s) will commit to:

- Raise the appropriate air quality flag daily under the California flag
- Require teacher participation in a program training (20minutes)
- Encourage student and parents to participate in educational sessions
- Disseminate educational materials and inform students and parents of the program provided by the American Lung Association of Central California (ALACC)
- Signing up to receive daily air quality information directly from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Valley Air District)
- Informing the Valley Air District directly of any changes in contact information for the daily electronic air quality report
- Informing the ALACC of flag replacement needs

American Lung Association of Central California will provide:

- A set of colored flags corresponding to the levels on the Air Quality Index (AQI)
- A training for administrators, educators, students and parents to understand the health implications, risks and recommended protective measures associated with the levels of the AQI and the corresponding flags
- Easy to understand, age and culturally appropriate educational materials for students in English, Spanish or Hmong
- Assistance for the schools in obtaining and understanding the Valley Air District's daily air quality report and forecast

To participate or for more information, contact Susie Rico at 559-222-4800 or send an e-mail to Srico@amerilungcencal.org.



