



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

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OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH CLERK

MEDIA RELEASE: POINT HIGGINS ELEMENTARY AIR QUALITY TESTING UPDATE

Date: January 26, 2026

Contact: Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk/Public Information Officer, 907-228-6605

For Immediate Release

Nortech Environmental Services, on behalf of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, conducted indoor air quality (IAQ) monitoring at Point Higgins Elementary School (PHE) over the period of January 22 – January 25.

Air quality readings taken within the occupied portions of the school (classrooms, common areas, offices, and all multi-use school spaces on the main level) have been consistent with past readings from throughout the Fall of 2025, and therefore continue to meet Department of Health criteria for continued use.

Air quality readings taken within the unoccupied portions of the school (lower level mechanical rooms and storage areas) show some improvement over the readings taken in November and December of 2025. The Borough recommends that ventilation remain in place and in use until the permanent vapor barrier is installed and in use.

For more information on the August 15, 2025, diesel spill, response, and remediation updates, please visit: <https://www.kgbak.us/1127/Diesel-Spill-at-Point-Higgins-Elementary>

The Borough, as the property owner, administers the ongoing property remediation and recovery efforts, while the School District retains full authority over instructional schedules, building access, and related operational decisions.

For questions regarding school operations please contact KGBSD Interim Superintendent Sheri Boehlert, at super@kgsbd.org

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