



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL



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TOPIC

School Facilities and Operations



TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The issue I am focusing on is the cleanliness, maintenance, and hygiene of student bathrooms at Alexandria City High School. This issue affects all students, teachers, staff, and visitors who use school restrooms throughout the day. When bathrooms are dirty, overcrowded, or missing supplies like soap and paper towels, students may avoid using them or practice poor hygiene. This can increase the spread of germs, make students feel uncomfortable, and negatively affect their focus in class. This issue matters at ACHS because thousands of students share these facilities every day, and clean bathrooms are essential for maintaining a healthy and respectful school environment. Improving bathroom conditions can positively impact both student health and school culture.

BASELINE DATA & GOAL

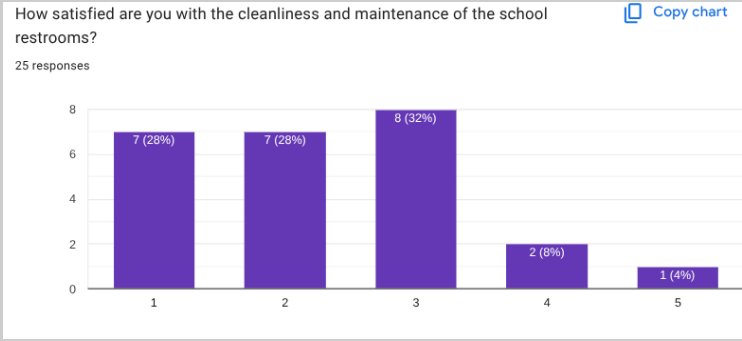
Based on my survey of 25 Alexandria City High School students, 80% reported that soap or hand sanitizer is not consistently available in school bathrooms. In addition, 52% of students said they regularly notice unpleasant odors or sanitation issues and 56% said bathroom supplies such as toilet paper and soap are only available sometimes. These numbers show that bathroom cleanliness, hygiene, and supply availability are ongoing concerns for many students at ACHS.

My goal is to increase the percentage of students who say soap and hand sanitizer are consistently available from 20% to 75%. I also want to reduce the number of students reporting sanitation issues from 52% to below 20% by having a poster in the bathrooms and encouraging students to report bathroom issues immediately.

CYCP GOAL & STRATEGIC AREA

My issue connects to this CYCP goal because clean and safe school bathrooms directly affect student physical health, hygiene, comfort, and overall well being. By improving restroom conditions at ACHS, students can have access to healthier facilities that support their success in school.

WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?



Graph 1 Title:
Bathroom Supplies Availability at ACHS

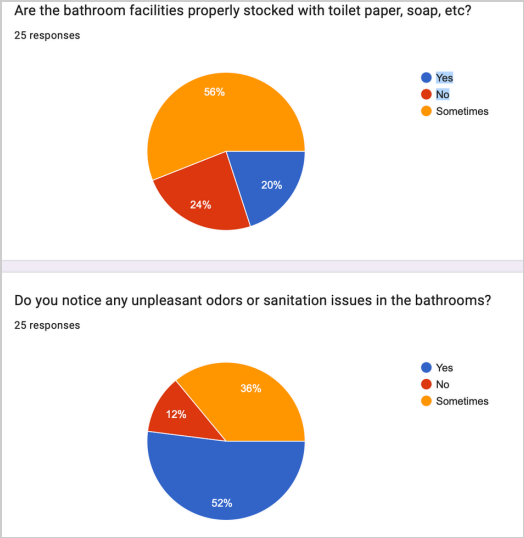
Data:

- 20% of students said bathroom supplies like toilet paper and soap are available.
- 24% said no.
- 56% said only sometimes.
- What does this data show?

This data shows that over half of students believe bathroom supplies are only available sometimes, while nearly one fourth say supplies are not available at all. This means many students cannot consistently rely on school bathrooms being fully stocked.

Why does this matter?

This matters because students need access to soap, toilet paper, and other supplies to maintain proper hygiene and stay healthy during the school day.



Graph 2 Title:
Sanitation Problems and Unpleasant Odors in School Bathrooms

Data:

- 52% said yes.
- 12% said no.
- 36% said sometimes.

What does this data show?

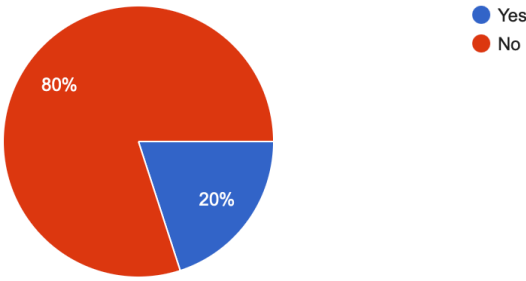
This data shows that more than half of surveyed students regularly notice unpleasant odors or sanitation issues in school bathrooms, while many others experience these issues sometimes.

Why does this matter?

This matters because unsanitary conditions can make students uncomfortable, spread germs, and discourage students from using the bathrooms when needed.

Are soap and hand sanitizer consistently available in the bathrooms?

25 responses



Graph 3 Title:
Soap and Hand Sanitizer Availability

Data:

- 20% said yes.
- 80% said no.
- What does this data show?

This data shows that only one out of five students believe soap and hand sanitizer are consistently available in school bathrooms, while most students say these supplies are missing.

Why does this matter?

This matters because handwashing is one of the most important ways to prevent illness and maintain a healthy school environment.

WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED?

Alexandria City High School already has janitors who clean student bathrooms and restock supplies such as soap, paper towels, and toilet paper throughout the school day. ACPS also has a Facilities and Operations department that handles building maintenance and responds to cleaning or repair requests. Bathrooms are cleaned on a daily schedule, and damaged equipment or supply shortages can be reported by staff. These efforts show that the school is already trying to maintain safe restroom conditions for students. However, student feedback shows that bathrooms can still become overcrowded, run out of supplies, or become dirty between scheduled cleanings.

WHO CAN HELP?

Alexandria City Public Schools:
ACPS Facilities and Operations can help by increasing restroom inspections, responding faster to maintenance issues, and making sure supplies stay stocked throughout the school day. They can also collect data about which bathrooms need the most attention.

Alexandria City High School Student Government Association:
The student government can help by collecting student feedback, creating awareness campaigns about hygiene, and helping students report restroom concerns. They can act as a bridge between students and school administration.



WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

Quantity: Cleaning staff clean school bathrooms every day, restock supplies, empty trash, and respond to maintenance requests when problems are reported. School staff also monitor building conditions and communicate with the Facilities department when repairs are needed.

Quality: Although these actions help, student survey data shows that bathrooms still become dirty, overcrowded, or run out of supplies during the school day. This suggests that current efforts are helping, but they are not fully solving the problem.

IS IT ACTUALLY HELPING?

Current efforts are helping somewhat but the data shows that students are still experiencing restroom concerns. Out of 25 students surveyed, 80% said soap or hand sanitizer is not consistently available, 52% said they notice unpleasant odors or sanitation issues, and 56% said bathroom supplies are only available only sometimes. In addition, most students rated bathroom cleanliness between 1–3 out of 5, showing overall low satisfaction. This data suggests that while ACHS already has custodial staff and maintenance systems in place, students are not fully better off yet, and stronger solutions are still needed.



WHAT SHOULD CHANGE? (YOUR SOLUTION)

I believe ACHS should increase restroom checks throughout the school day and create a faster reporting system for bathroom issues. For example, QR codes could be placed near bathroom entrances so students can quickly report missing supplies, broken equipment, or cleanliness concerns. Staff could then respond faster to problems before they affect more students. My survey data supports this solution because many students reported concerns about dirty bathrooms, missing supplies, and overcrowding during passing periods. By improving communication and increasing maintenance checks, ACHS can better meet student needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

If this solution is used, students will have cleaner, safer, and more comfortable restroom facilities throughout the school day. This could improve hygiene habits, reduce the spread of germs, and help students feel more respected in their school environment. Students, teachers, staff, and visitors at ACHS would all benefit from a cleaner and healthier school.

CITATIONS

Eickert, C. (2025). Titan Changemaker Listening Session Handout.

Bradley Company. (2024). Healthy Handwashing Survey. [CleanLink student restroom survey article](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) handwashing resources](#)

[Alexandria City Public Schools Facilities and Operations](#)



LEARN MORE

[Bradley Company Student Restroom Survey](#)

This resource provides national data about student hygiene habits, restroom concerns, and handwashing behavior in schools.

[CDC Handwashing in Schools Resources](#)

This resource explains why proper hygiene in schools matters and provides information about preventing the spread of germs.