

# Team Impact – Energy CLASS Prize

Located in a predominantly non-white community, about 85% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch. However, natural gas plants nearby lead to high property taxes. This means that, under Texas' Robin Hood protocol, **Port Arthur ISD loses funds every year**. The city of Port Arthur is in a very vulnerable location geographically, and weather hazards pose a serious threat to the facilities. It is critical to strengthen these schools to withstand the mounting risk of natural disasters and extreme heat.

There is currently only one energy manager for PAISD, and the CLASS prize would allow for further training of maintenance individuals as well as building updates. This would create an opportunity for Port Arthur schools to innovate how they use and track energy, and it would reduce overall operating costs significantly by providing more efficient equipment and reducing energy usage. Additionally, weatherizing the buildings will increase resilience of the facilities to inclement weather hazards.

**Team Impact** is comprised of individuals from Climate Impact Capital, an investment firm focused on mitigating climate change, and Houston Advanced Research Center, a science-based nonprofit. Our Energy Champion is the HVAC Foreman and Energy Manager of Port Arthur ISD.

## Port Arthur ISD Facilities:



Jefferson  
Middle School



Lincoln Middle  
School