

**Statement on President Trump's Infrastructure Plan by the Organizing Committee of
[\[Re\]Building America's School Infrastructure Coalition \(BASIC\)](http://www.buildusschools.org)
www.buildusschools.org**

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Public school infrastructure is not in the infrastructure plan released by President Trump's Administration. It needs to be. Public school facilities account for one-quarter of all state and local capital infrastructure spending. More than 50 million children and adults set foot in them every day. That's 1 in 6 of all Americans. On average, these buildings are about 50 years old. Too many of them are unsafe — with leaky roofs, asbestos, lead pipes and lead paint. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives them a D+. **It makes no sense not to include public schools in the nation's infrastructure plan.** Surely the places where our children learn are just as important as the roads we drive on.

School districts have been working hard to provide safe, healthy and green school facilities, but many are financially strapped. Local communities and states are currently spending \$49 billion a year to build new school facilities and modernize old ones. Unfortunately, that creates a \$38 billion annual shortfall. Inequities are built into the system as well. Well-off school districts can take great pride in building 21st century facilities while poor districts — mostly rural and urban — patch up their old school buildings and hope the boilers will survive another winter. **Our public schools don't have to be Taj Mahals, but they need to be safe and healthy buildings that inspire learning and community pride.**

We urge Congress to set this right. Use this opportunity to find the path for investing in our nation's public school infrastructure. This should be guided by the legislation in both the House by Rep. [Bobby Scott](#) (D-Va.), [H.R. 2475 \(115\)](#), and in the Senate by Sen. [Jack Reed](#) (D-R.I.), [S. 1674 \(115\)](#), that **retains state and local control of our infrastructure and invests \$100 billion to modernize our public school facilities over ten years** — creating an estimated 1.8 million American jobs.

The [Re]Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition (BASIC) includes non-partisan organizations and individuals who support federal funding to help underserved public school districts modernize their facilities. We believe that ALL children should attend healthy, safe, and educationally appropriate school facilities. More at buildusschools.org.

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