



[Re] Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition

Coalition Leadership Team

21st Century School Fund

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AASA

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ASBO International

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Center for Cities + Schools

Jeff Vincent, Director of Public
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Center for Green Schools

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Anisa Heming, Director

Education Market Association

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Communications & Education

**International Union of Bricklayers
and Allied Craftworkers**

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Johnson Controls

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**National Association of
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**National Council on School
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Paul Bakalis, President

**Philadelphia Healthy Schools
Initiative**

Jerry Roseman

Secure Schools Alliance

Robert Boyd, Executive Director

May 20, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear President Trump:

All across the nation, school districts are fighting an uphill battle to provide safe, healthy and educationally inspiring public schools. Our nation's public schools are, on average, 50 years old. Many are crumbling, exposing students and teachers to classrooms that are too cold in the winter and too hot in the fall and spring. In many schools, the walls, ceilings and even floors are peeling, exposing lead paint and asbestos dust; roofs are leaking, leading to mold; and, in more than a third of our schools, water fountains have tested positive for lead levels high enough to cause damage to children's developing brains.

These problems are most acute in our lowest wealth rural and inner-city communities, but are also found in larger towns and suburbs where the nation's economic recovery has yet to take hold. Local school districts struggle to stay ahead of aging and out-of-date school infrastructure – they simply don't have the economic base to raise adequate funding.

Both you and the Democratic leadership have promised to help communities address these pressing school facility needs. This investment makes good educational and economic sense:

1. **Public education infrastructure is the 2nd largest construction spending sector** behind transportation. School districts spent \$1 trillion (2014\$) over the last 20 years for school construction.
2. **School construction creates thousands of jobs** for laborers, skilled trades people, and building industry professionals. School construction projects generate manufacturing jobs required to produce the equipment, fixtures, furniture, and materials for constructing and modernizing school facilities.
3. **Local school districts paid for 82% of the building construction costs** over the last two decades, and already had nearly **\$450 billion in long-term debt at the end of FY2016** — an average of about \$9,000 per student.
4. **There is a \$38 billion annual gap** between what districts and states spend and what is necessary to modernize our facilities. Even when states are doing their share, our districts fall short.

A targeted federal investment will leverage local and state school construction spending to help ensure that our nation's public schools are safe, healthy, resilient, and modern learning environments. This critical investment will help set up our students to thrive and compete in the global economy. After all, it is the children and youth in our schools today who will become the workforce engaged in planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance of our nation's roads, bridges, airports, waterways, and all types of infrastructure. Our nation needs this generation to be even better prepared than we were, and our students, teachers and school employees deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mary Filardo, Executive Director, 21st Century School Fund

[Re]Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition Members

21st Century School Fund	Great Northwest Education Cooperative
AASA, The School Superintendents Association	Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
ACLU of Maryland	International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
Afterschool Alliance	Johnson Controls
American Institute of Architects Committee on Architecture for Education	KaBOOM!
Associated General Contractors of America	Living Classroom
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)	Maine Parent Teacher Association
BlueGreen Alliance	National Association of Elementary School Principals
Bristol Virginia Public Schools	National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
Campaign for Environmental Literacy	National Association of Secondary School Principals
Center for Cities + Schools, University of California, Berkeley	National Council on School Facilities
Center for Green Schools @ USGBC	National Indian Education Association
Children & Nature Network	nature+play designs
City of Austin (TX) Parks and Recreation Department	Parents For Students Safety
Communities in Schools Pittsburgh - Allegheny County	pcbinschools.org
Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team	Perkins Eastman
daVinci Planning, PC	Philadelphia Healthy Schools Initiative
Ed-Space Consulting and Project Management	School PRIDE Foundation
Education Market Association	Secure Schools Alliance
Fast Growth Schools Coalition, Texas	Shawnee Heights Unified School District (Kansas)
	Women for a Healthy Environment

CC: The Honorable Russ Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary, Department of Transportation
The Honorable C.J. Mahoney, Deputy United States Trade Representative
Ivanka Trump, Advisor to the President
Larry Kudlow, Assistant to the President and Director of the National Economic Council
Shahira Knight, Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs
Pat Cipollone, Counsel to the President
Kellyanne Conway, Assistant to the President and Senior Counselor
Sarah Sanders, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary