# Public School Facilities Are Community Assets



Our nation's 100,000 public school facilities are community assets that are used every day by millions of Americans. As the nation's second largest infrastructure sector, they are core public infrastructure and need to be a major part of national infrastructure legislation.



**EDUCATION:** 49.5 million children attend classes every school day, including 1.4 million pre-K students and 3.6 million kindergarten students.



NUTRITION: 30.1 million children are served healthy school lunches and another 15.6 million children eat breakfast every morning in local public schools.



HEALTH CARE: More than 2 million children receive health care at 2,300 School Based Health Centers in 49 states.



**AFTER SCHOOL**: 7.8 million children attend programs for STEM, literacy, and the like.



**LITERACY:** 582 thousand Americans take adult literacy and ESOL classes at local public schools.



**COMMUNITY USE:** Many public school facilities are joint-use facilities with public libraries, YMCA's, early learning centers, elder care, health centers and even police substations.



**DISASTER RELIEF:** Thousands of schools are designated as FEMA evacuation centers, providing food, shelter and health care during natural disasters.



**VOTING:** On Election Day millions of Americans vote at their local public school and use them for other civic activities like town halls and other public meetings.



**WORKPLACE:** 6 million teachers and administrative staff work in local public schools every weekday.

Sources: Education: https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=372. | Nutrition: https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp and https://www.fns.usda.gov/sbp/fact-sheet | Health Care: http://censusreport.sbh4all.org/, https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/school-based-health.html | After School: http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3 PM /national.html#c/benefits/p\_of\_parents\_satisfied\_child\_program\_2014 | Literacy: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15\_507.20.asp?current=yes | Community Use: http://citiesandschools.berkeley.edu/reports/Partnerships\_JU\_Aug2010.pdf | Workplace: NCES Table Generator for FY21 - https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx

## **BENEFITS** for Every Community and State

A \$100 billion one-time federal investment for locally controlled public schools will benefit children, families, and communities across America.



### **HEALTHIER CHILDREN**

All children will be able to attend safe and healthy school facilities, lowering the risk of asthma and lead poisoning, and improving educational excellence.



#### **BETTER STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

Attendance and achievement go up, absenteeism and suspensions go down. Teachers will have better professional work environments and stay in teaching longer.



#### **MORE JOBS**

Every \$1 billion invested in school construction creates nearly 18,000 jobs. Federal funding also can catalyze state and local investment and encourage innovation with public-public and public-private partnerships.



#### MORE RESOURCES FOR CLASSROOMS AND TEACHERS

Modern public school facilities will save on maintenance and operations costs by operating more efficient and sustainable green buildings, enabling communities to increase funds for teachers and classrooms.



#### **RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS**

Modern public school infrastructure will provide rural students with access to the same basic 21st century tools that urban and suburban school children now take for granted.



#### **BETTER DISASTER RECOVERY**

Communities will have resilient public facilities ready to serve in times of hurricanes and other natural disasters.



#### ALL WHILE RETAINING LOCAL CONTROL OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Details about each state's projected benefits in terms of funding and construction jobs: https://www.buildusschools.org/opportunities

## **ABOUT BASIC**

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. It's BASIC.

#### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

- 21st Century School Fund
- AASA
- AIHA
- Carrier Global Corporation
- Center for Cities + Schools
- Center for Green Schools @ USGBC
- Children's Defense Fund's Southern Regional Office
- DLR Group

- Heart of America
- International Union of
  Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
- National Association of Energy Service Companies
- National Education Association
- Public Economics, Inc.
- SafeTraces
  - UndauntedK12

