



BASIC

[Re] Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition

Back to School, Back to Work

The Case for a Federal Investment in our Nation's
Crumbling Public School Infrastructure

June 10, 2020

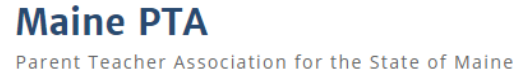
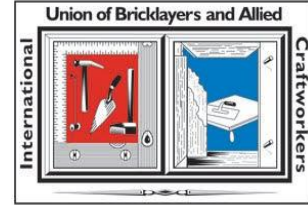
- Introduction to BASIC and Panelists
- Case for a federal role
- Perspectives from the field
- Opportunity for Congressional action



[Re] Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition

www.buildUSschools.org

is a non-partisan coalition that supports federal funding to ensure all children attend safe, healthy, educationally inspiring and environmentally sustainable school facilities.



55+ Members and growing...

Meet the Panel

✓ **Mary Filardo**, 21st Century School Fund 

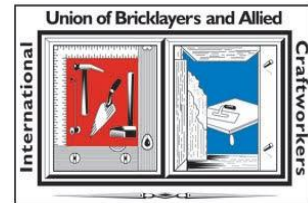
National Council on School Facilities 

✓ **Jerry Roseman**, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers

Health & Welfare Fund  PHILADELPHIA
FEDERATION of TEACHERS

✓ **Noel Maloof**, DeKalb County School District, GA 

✓ **Brian Kennedy**, International Union of Bricklayers
and Allied Craftworkers



Why federal funds for PK-12 public educational facilities infrastructure?

- **Scale** of PK-12 public ed infrastructure
- **Structural inequity** in system of finance
- **Return on investment** from modernization





School places matter...



100,000
Public K-12 schools in U.S.



1 in 6 Americans sets foot in a school each day



total square footage equal to 2,800 Empire State Buildings



2nd largest public infrastructure investment after transportation

CRV
\$2T

\$2 trillion is the 2014 current replacement value (CRV) of our nation's public school facilities

20 YEARS OF FACILITIES INVESTMENT & SPENDING

ANNUAL AVERAGE (2014\$)

\$99 BILLION

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

PER YEAR (1994-2013)

\$49 BILLION



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

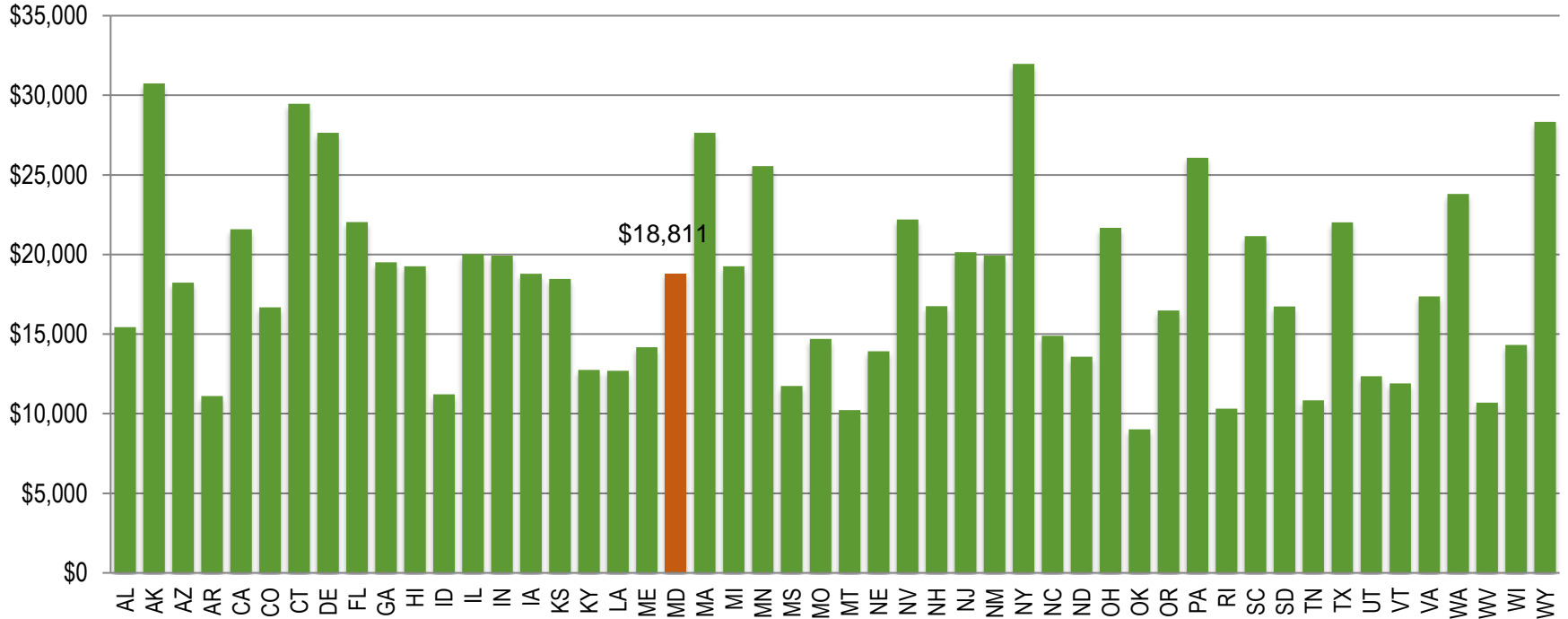
PER YEAR (2011-2013)

\$50 BILLION

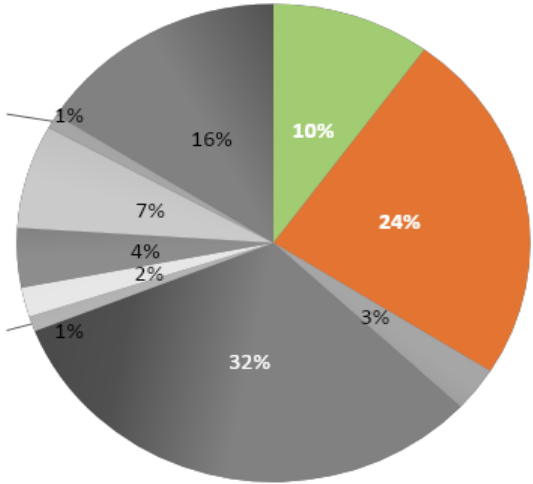


CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION SPEND PER STUDENT

Total FY1994-2013 (in 2014\$)



Percent of total state and local capital outlay, 1995–2012



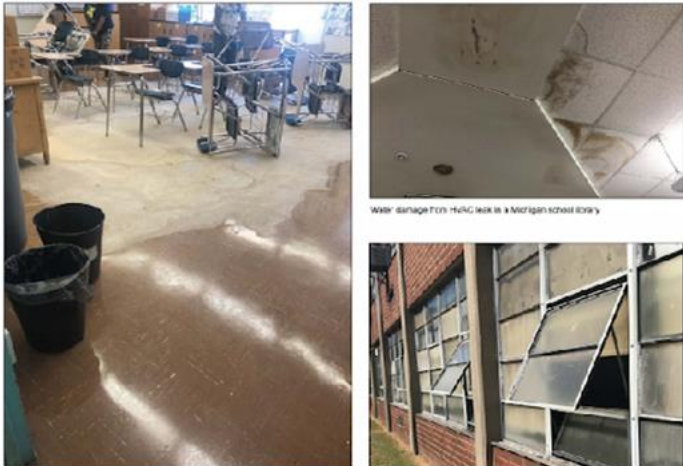
- Higher Education
- K-12
- Hospitals
- Highways
- Public Safety
- Natural Resources
- Other

K-12 FACILITIES
ACCOUNT FOR
NEARLY ONE-
FOURTH OF STATE
AND LOCAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENTS



School Districts
Frequently Identified
Multiple Building
Systems Needing
Updates or

Figure 4: Examples of Issues with Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems in Public Schools

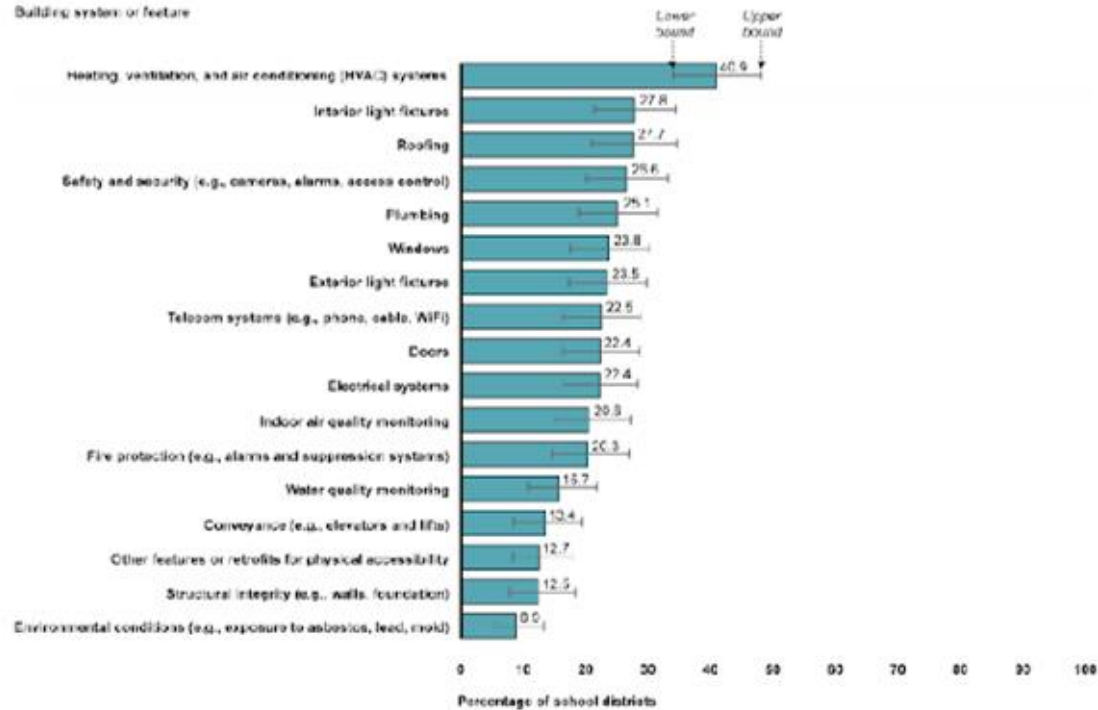


Water damage from HVAC leak in a California school, whose officials said replacing scoring is difficult because of asbestos floor tiles.

Water damage from HVAC leak in a Michigan school lobby

Open windows at a Maryland school without air conditioning in most areas of the building. The school district must close schools if the building temperature rises above a safe level for students and staff.

Figure 2: Estimated Percentage of **School Districts in Which at Least Half the Schools Need Updates or Replacements** of Key Building Systems or Features



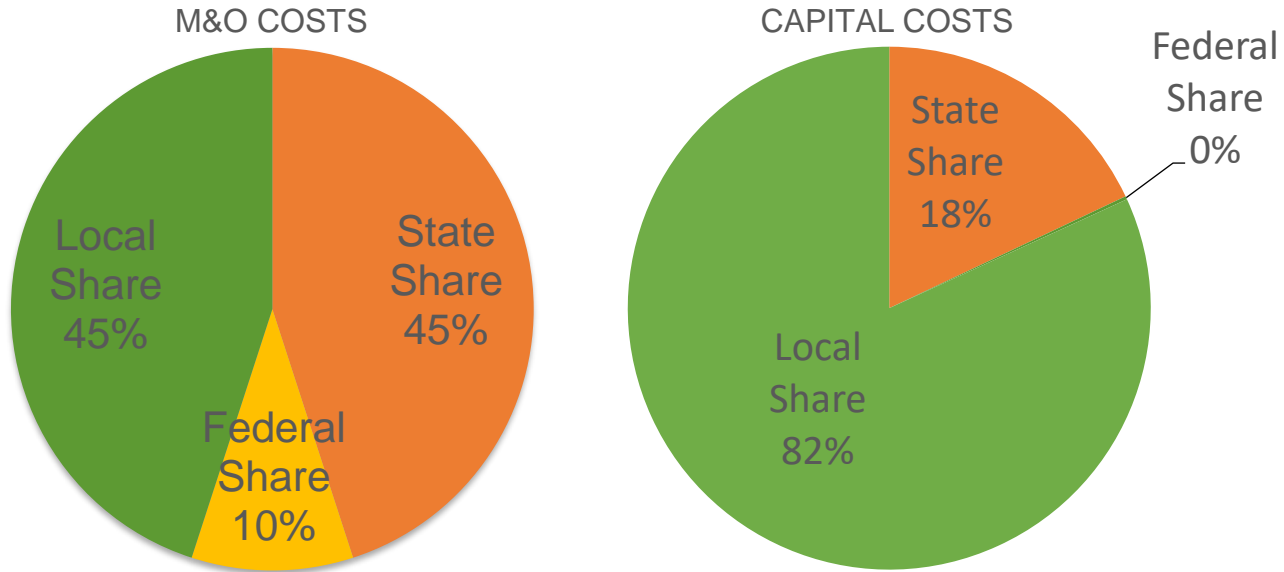
Percentage of school districts

PROJECTED GAP IN ANNUAL SPENDING

TOTAL K-12 FACILITIES	NATIONAL	Modern Standards	Historic Spending	Projected Annual Gap
	Maintenance & Operations @ 3% CRV	\$58 billion	\$50 billion	\$8 billion
	Capital Construction @ 4% CRV	\$77 billion	\$49 billion	\$28 billion
	New Facilities for 2.7 million new seats	\$10 billion		\$10 billion
	TOTAL	\$145 billion	\$99 billion	\$46 billion

AN INEQUITABLE FUNDING SYSTEM

Local communities pay 45% of M&O and 82% of capital construction outlay



Because local wealth varies greatly, some communities have modern, high-quality schools, while others do not.

High poverty districts had much lower capital investments in 2015-16



June 2020

In 2015-16 capital construction expenditures, on average, were about **\$300 less per student in high-poverty districts** (>75% F/R Lunch) about \$719 per student, compared to low-poverty districts (<25% F/R Lunch) about \$1,015 per student.

Philadelphia Public Schools

Perspectives from the Field

Jerry Roseman, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, Health & Welfare Fund, Director of Environmental Science



Philadelphia Public School District 2019-2020

- 130,000 students
- 20,000 staff
- 18,000 special needs & multiple Disability = ~ 14%
- 85% Economically Disadvantaged – Food Support
- 70% Latino/a &/or African American students
- Asthma prevalence – 20% - 40%



Philadelphia: Long-term Underfunding of Maintenance, Operations & Capital

- Too Few M&O Personnel & Resources to maintain/clean schools



- 225 Schools & average age = 70 years
- 10,000 classroom spaces
- Assessment of District schools (by District) = “Poor”
- 25-year Deferred Maint. Backlog & ~ 1,000 Work Orders per week
- \$7.5 Billion for Deferred Maintenance + Cap. Improvement



PHILADELPHIA
FEDERATION of TEACHERS



Federal school infrastructure funding will save districts millions

- Steam Leak in Mechanical Space - Present for Extended Time [months/years]
 - Steam & Moisture Impacted Asbestos Floor Tile and Electrical System Components
 - Mold Growth Resulted from ongoing steam leak
 - Unhealthy conditions for staff and students from asbestos and mold

Without upgrades and replacement of mechanical equipment, the scale, scope and costs escalated, and occupant health was compromised.





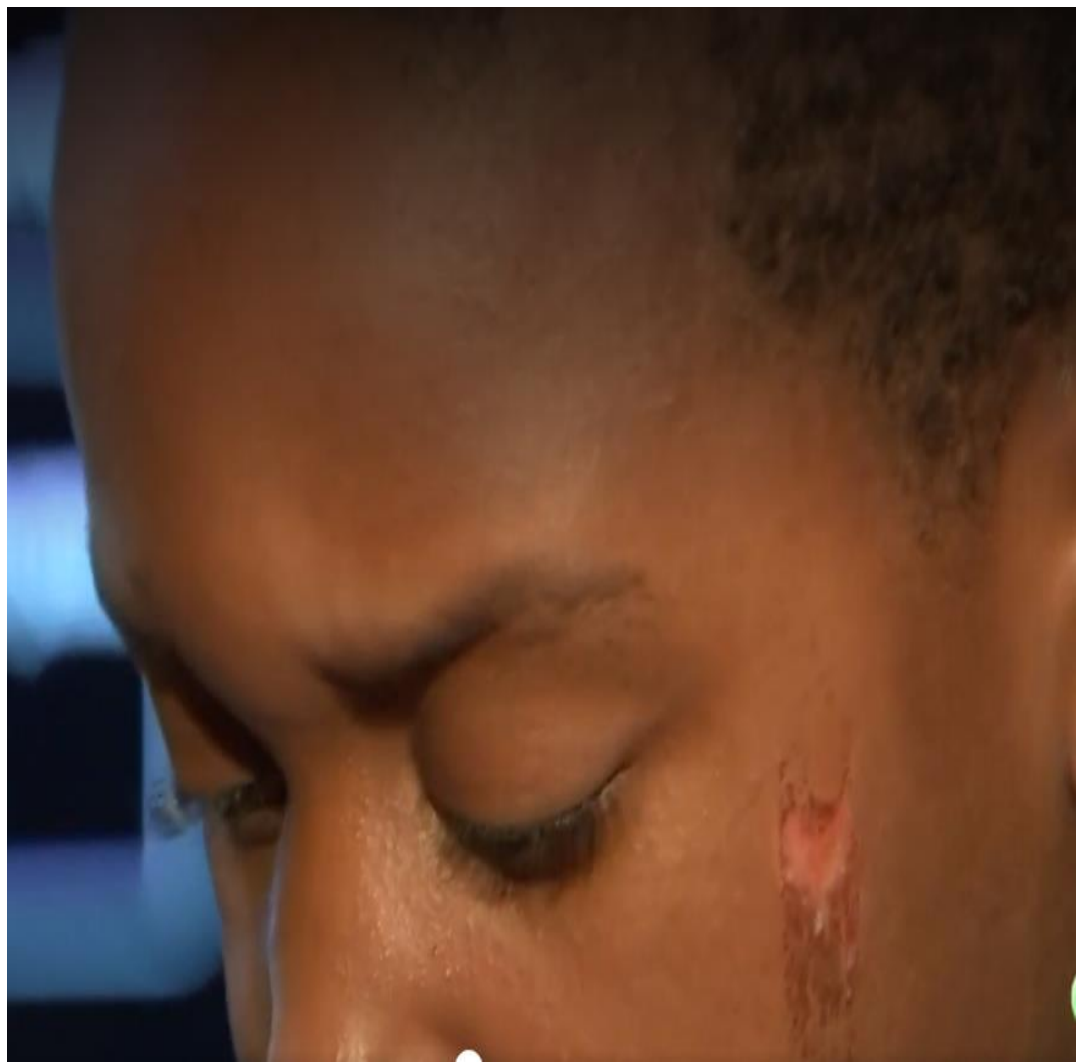
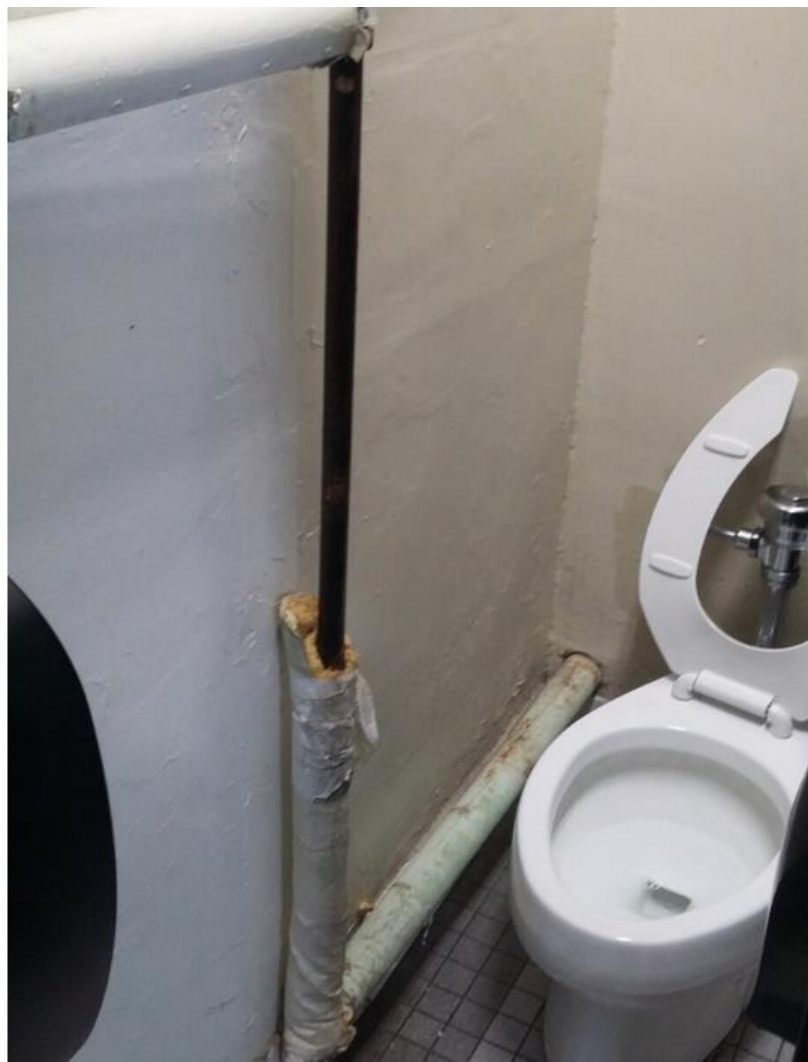
Rooftop play area drains blocked, major damage to library below. With exterior roof, gutter and drain upgrades or replacements, interior damage would not have occurred.



Federal funding will save health & welfare of children

- Significant damage to lead paint and plaster from moisture & steam leaks
- Children run their hands over efflorescing lead-painted wall
- > 2000 SF of deteriorated lead paint present in dozens of spaces and hundreds of individual walls ceilings & other structures throughout the school
- Debris on multiple surfaces [floors, window sills, desks, chairs, etc.]
- Unguarded radiator – 200°F – exposed to children







PHILADELPHIA
FEDERATION of TEACHERS

Philly Faces Greater Challenges to Reopening in a Pandemic

- Large % of windows inoperable
- Many schools without HVAC
- Schools Over Capacity with large Class Sizes
- Insufficient Bathrooms & Water Availability for hand washing
- Schools hard to clean due to poor conditions

DeKalb County Public Schools

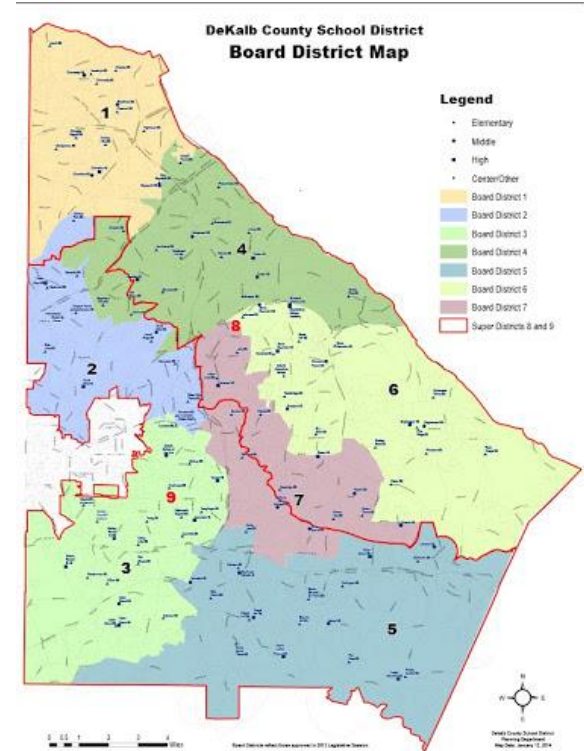
Perspectives from the Field

Noel Maloof, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, DeKalb County School District, GA



DeKalb County School District

- Urban School District in the Metro Atlanta Area
- Covers 257 Square Miles of DeKalb County, Georgia
- Georgia's Third Largest School District
- Ranks in the top 30 Largest School Districts in the Nation
- 102,000 students
- 15,500 Faculty and Staff
- 170 Total Facilities
- 140 Schools and Centers
- More than 14 Million Square Feet of Space





School Systems Facilities Infrastructure Needs

Three areas of capital need:

1. Capital Renewal

- Aging Infrastructure
 - Roofing
 - HVAC
 - Lighting
 - Plumbing
 - Electrical
 - Paving
 - Painting
 - Abatement

2. Capital Updates

2. Technology infrastructure
3. Accessibility Updates-ADA
4. Systems updates for energy efficiency

3. Capacity Building

- Facilities Expansions
- New Facilities



School District- Funding Sources in Georgia

Three types of funding for Capital Infrastructure in school districts

- Local
- State
- Special Taxes

Examples in our district:

- General Fund-General operating money from tax collected on property tax
- State Capital Outlay Funds-Monies allocated to districts based on need for Capital Renewal and New Construction
- E-SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) a 1% sales tax passed by voters to support school systems



K-12 Districts must be prepared for External Threats

- **Health Hazards**
 - Pandemic-COVID-19
 - Pollution-IAQ
 - Water Quality
- **School Violence**
 - Safety and Security
- **Natural Disasters**
 - Hurricanes
 - Tornadoes
 - Floods
 - Fires

COVID-19 SUMMARY REPORT FOR DEKALB COUNTY

- As of June 7, DeKalb County has reported 4,046 cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and 125 deaths.
- Among all DeKalb County positive cases, 17.4% were hospitalized and 3.1% have died.

www.Dekalbhealth.net/covid-19dekalb





What Can Federal Dollars Do?

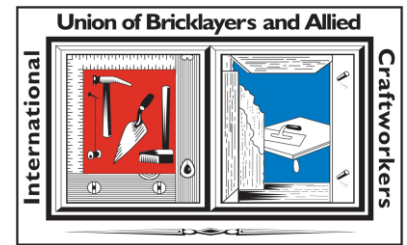
Federal Funding is Key:

- Helps to Bridge the Gap
- Reduces the Growing Need
- Supports Local Districts in Their Efforts
- Stable and Long Term Stimulus to the Economy

Return on Investment

The Rebuild America's School Act is Smart Public Policy

Brian Kennedy, Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers



Unemployment in the Construction Industry

- 12.7% in May (four times higher than May of last year).
- More than 1 million jobs lost from February to April.



Rebound in jobs in May (Paycheck Protection Program).

- The Association of General Contractor's chief economist, Ken Simonson said: **“These remain treacherous times, with constructions jobless rate high and state and local budgets in tough shape.”**
- 25% of contractors report that jobs scheduled to start in June of later have been cancelled.
- July is the start of the new fiscal year and states and localities face major shortfalls in revenue.

The *Rebuild America's Schools Act* would: Modernize Schools

- Create a \$70 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax credit bond program **targeted at high-poverty schools** with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
- Districts will have funds to expand access to high-speed broadband so public schools have the reliable and high-speed Internet access they need for digital learning.

*...school officials told us how newly renovated schools had improved their students' experiences. At one elementary school we visited, the principal told us that he has noticed **improvements in attendance, parent engagement, and student academic performance** since the renovation.*

GAO June 2020



Left: The renovated cafeteria and auditorium in the elementary school, with acoustical panels to dampen noise levels. Right: The renovated dance studio at the high school, which the principal said has increased participation in the dance program.

The *Rebuild America's Schools Act* would: Create Good Jobs



Leverage federal, state, and local resources for an overall investment of \$107 billion, creating over 1.9 million jobs, based on an Economic Policy Institute analysis that each \$1 billion spent on construction creates 17,785 jobs.

TABLE 2

Jobs generated through \$1 billion investment in construction sector, all and by demographic characteristics of workers

	Jobs gained					Perce	
	Direct	Materials	K-input	Induced (responding)	Total	Direct	Materials
Totals	6,664	2,714	2,176	6,230	17,785	37.5%	15.3%

Note: Employment statistics represent pooled data from 2009-2012. Supplier jobs include materials and K-input (capital-input) jobs; indirect jobs include supplier jobs and induced responding jobs.

Source: Author's analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group microdata. Economic Policy Institute, October 2018.

The *Rebuild America's Schools Act* would: Retain State & Local Control

- **Funding goes to states by formula** which will allocate competitively to local education agencies (LEAs) based on the poverty level of the school, fiscal limitations to raise funds to improve school facilities, and the severity of the need to improve school facilities.
- \$7 billion per year in direct grants only provides an **8% federal share** toward the \$87 billion of estimated annual school construction capital need.
- **States provide a 10% match** and comply with a maintenance of effort provision and supplement, not supplant requirements.
- States ensure that their **distribution of grants represents the geographic diversity of the state.**

The *Rebuild America's Schools Act* would: Advance

- States will have funding to develop a comprehensive national database on the condition of public school facilities; such a national database currently does not exist and would provide much-needed insight into the condition of our public schools.
- States will have funds to provide LEAs technical assistance, and review and establish standards.

Looking for a way forward

We need your help in securing bi-partisan support for school infrastructure investment

Increasing federal spending for school buildings is “Extremely or very important priority” to Americans

% saying extremely or very important priority

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Improving bridges	72	73	75	69
Improving school buildings	72	68	76	75
Improving roads	71	77	70	70
Improving the power grid	58	61	59	55

***March 2018 Poll conducted by:** POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi, Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, and Schumer,

We write in support of continued efforts to rebuild America's infrastructure. We were encouraged by the strong commitments made earlier this spring and hope to continue building on that momentum. Specifically, we wish to highlight our nation's public schools as a critical area of need. The public schools that strengthen our communities and fuel our competitive economy are deteriorating. In order to continue leveraging the full potential of our public schools, we must invest in the rehabilitation of their deteriorating facilities.

To effectively contribute to our nation as adults, students require schools that support engagement and provide access to technology. Due to a lack of resources, many schools that intend to modernize with innovative programming and technology are far behind and cannot afford basic maintenance. Those schools struggle with poor indoor air quality, crumbling plaster, peeling paint, and faulty heating and cooling systems.


A comprehensive infrastructure plan should include investment in much-needed basic improvements for public school facilities from all communities, including urban, low-income, suburban, or rural. Federal agencies should consider partnering with states to evaluate need and find creative ways to finance future projects. Investments in the infrastructure of our public schools will improve student outcomes, stimulate job growth, and pave the way for innovation.

We are grateful for your leadership toward rebuilding America's infrastructure. As you continue your work, we hope that you will recognize school infrastructure as a critical area of need and an essential component of our national infrastructure. We look forward to working with you to advance student success by investing in the infrastructure of our nation's public schools.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,


David P. Joyce
Member of Congress


Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress


Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress


Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress


Peter T. King
Member of Congress


Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress


Will Hurd
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress


Don Bacon
Member of Congress


Paul Cook
Member of Congress



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[Re] Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition

www.BuildUSschools.org

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