
The National Council on School Facilities is the nonprofit association representing U.S. states, territories, and federal agencies responsible for K–12 public school facilities. The mission of the Council is to educate, serve, and support its members so that the nation’s public school buildings and grounds are planned, designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to maximize and sustain student learning, and support student and staff health, safety, performance, and productivity.

Whereas: The National Council on School Facilities was a partner in the development of a report entitled “State of Our Schools: America’s K–12 Facilities 2016” along with the 21st Century School Fund and the Center for Green Schools of the U.S. Green Building Council;

Whereas: Research shows that high-quality school facilities help improve student achievement, reduce truancy and suspensions, improve staff satisfaction and retention, and support property values, and are a critical factor for equity in education resources for students;

Whereas: This report finds that communities have made significant efforts from 1994 through 2013 to maintain, operate, build and improve public school facilities, spending an average of nearly $100 billion a year from operating and capital budgets to acquire schools for enrollment growth; renew building systems and components; alter schools for educational suitability and capacity; and reduce accumulated deferred maintenance and repairs;

Whereas: School-construction spending per student and per gross square foot varies greatly by state and district, with local school districts bearing the heaviest burden to build and improve school facilities, and facilities conditions being poorest in the lowest income communities;

Whereas: Standards for maintenance and operations and capital construction budgeting indicates that $145 billion a year is needed to maintain and operate the nation’s public school facilities so they are healthy, safe, educationally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable;

Whereas: There is an annual shortfall from meeting the facilities spending and investment standards of about $46 billion a year.

Now therefore be it resolved:

The National Council on School Facilities issues this call to action for federal, state, and local governments to engage with communities and industry to improve facilities data management and educational facilities planning; find new funding streams; and develop efficiencies in current spending and investment to close the gaps in national maintenance, operations, and capital outlay for K–12 public school facilities.

Adopted by the board of directors of the National Council on School Facilities on March 11, 2016.

Michael D. Rowland, President

Joseph da Silva, President-Elect and Secretary