



REBUILDING OHIO SCHOOLS

Education is about more than buildings. However, where students learn affects how well they learn.

OHIO SCHOOL FACILITIES COMMISSION

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE BUILDING WHERE STUDENTS LEARN?

Studies tell us a lot about the importance of school buildings and their relationship to the community and the students who occupy them. Studies show that academic performance is affected by the educational environment. Students actually do better work in bright, clean, well-ventilated and well-maintained spaces. Teachers say their own performance is enhanced as well.

Several studies suggest a strong link between the condition of the school building and the level of community involvement and support.

Recent studies also show a relationship between substandard school buildings and lower student achievement test scores. Conversely, students perform better on tests in schools designed as modern teaching environments. The difference in test scores varies as much as 17 percent.

The name of our agency might imply that we only care about buildings. What we really care about are the young minds being cultivated in those buildings and ensuring that every student can learn in the best environment possible.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COUNTS

The American Association of School Administrators has this to say about the link between school construction and learning:

“Students are more likely to prosper when their environment is conducive to learning. Architecture can be designed to support greater safety and security. Environmentally responsive heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems, for example...provide a more comfortable learning environment. Such well designed



Allen East Local School District

systems send a powerful message to kids about the importance their community places on education.”

Education is the most important thing we do to prepare the next generation for the future. It only makes sense that we provide our children with the best and safest places to learn.

SCHOOLS TO FIT TODAY'S TEACHING AND LEARNING

The world has changed since the average public school was built over 40 years ago. Education has changed. From the white chalk and blackboard days, education has advanced to electronic whiteboards, portable computers, expandable networking, and interactive video where students can communicate with students all over the world.

The simple truth is that modern education has outgrown some of the buildings where our children are preparing for the future. And it makes a difference where they learn. Many of our schools report unsatisfactory conditions that negatively impact the learning process.

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Vinton County Local School District

A QUALITY EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

It isn't easy to work in a school building that is badly lit and drafty. It's hard to concentrate in a learning environment that is noisy, stuffy or inadequately wired for modern technology.

Teachers and students find it easier to focus on education when their environment is comfortable and flexible, and their classrooms have good lighting and adequate storage space. Today's educational requirements also demands that classrooms be wired for multiple computers and visual education equipment.

Schools of the 21st century must be responsive to the needs of modern education methods. While bricks and mortars

aren't the bottom line of learning, a quality educational facility plays a positive role in children's lives and futures.

At OSFC, we're working with school officials and communities throughout the state to give our children a quality educational environment.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Established in 1997, the Ohio School Facilities Commission administers the state's comprehensive Kindergarten through 12th grade public school construction program. The agency helps school districts fund, plan, design, and build or renovate schools.