



# Funding School Infrastructure

Advocacy and Impact

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

# COMMITTEE OF ARCHITECTURE FOR EDUCATION (CAE)



## AIA National

[network.aia.org/committeeonarchitectureforeducation](http://network.aia.org/committeeonarchitectureforeducation)

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Advocacy Committee

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## AIA | DC

[www.aiadc.com/committee/committee-architecture-education](http://www.aiadc.com/committee/committee-architecture-education)

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# OBJECTIVES

- 1. Identify current conditions at public PreK-12 school facilities** - the “state of our schools”.
- 2. Describe potential improvements and strengthen aspirations** important to public school communities.
- 3. Identify federal resources** available to improve public school facilities.
- 4. Understand and advocate for legislation** to develop appropriately scaled federal programs that encourage equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, resilient, and educationally excellent PK-12 buildings and grounds.

## SPEAKERS

### Moderator

- Stephanie Lamore - AIA Senior Manager, Advocacy

### Panelists

- Andrea Swiatocha - U.S. Department of Energy
- Andrea Falken - U.S. Department of Education
- Becky Cook-Shyovitz - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Mary Filardo - 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund, BASIC





# AIA

## Stephanie Lamore

American Institute of Architects  
Senior Manager, Advocacy



Approximately how much of school infrastructure funding comes from the federal level?

A. 15%

B. 8%

C. <2%

# State of our Schools



Improving Public School  
Facilities for All Children

## Mary Filardo

21st Century School Fund,  
Executive Director

[Re] Build America School Infrastructure Coalition,  
Chairperson



What have we been doing to **fund school infrastructure** across the United States (Local, State and Federal)?

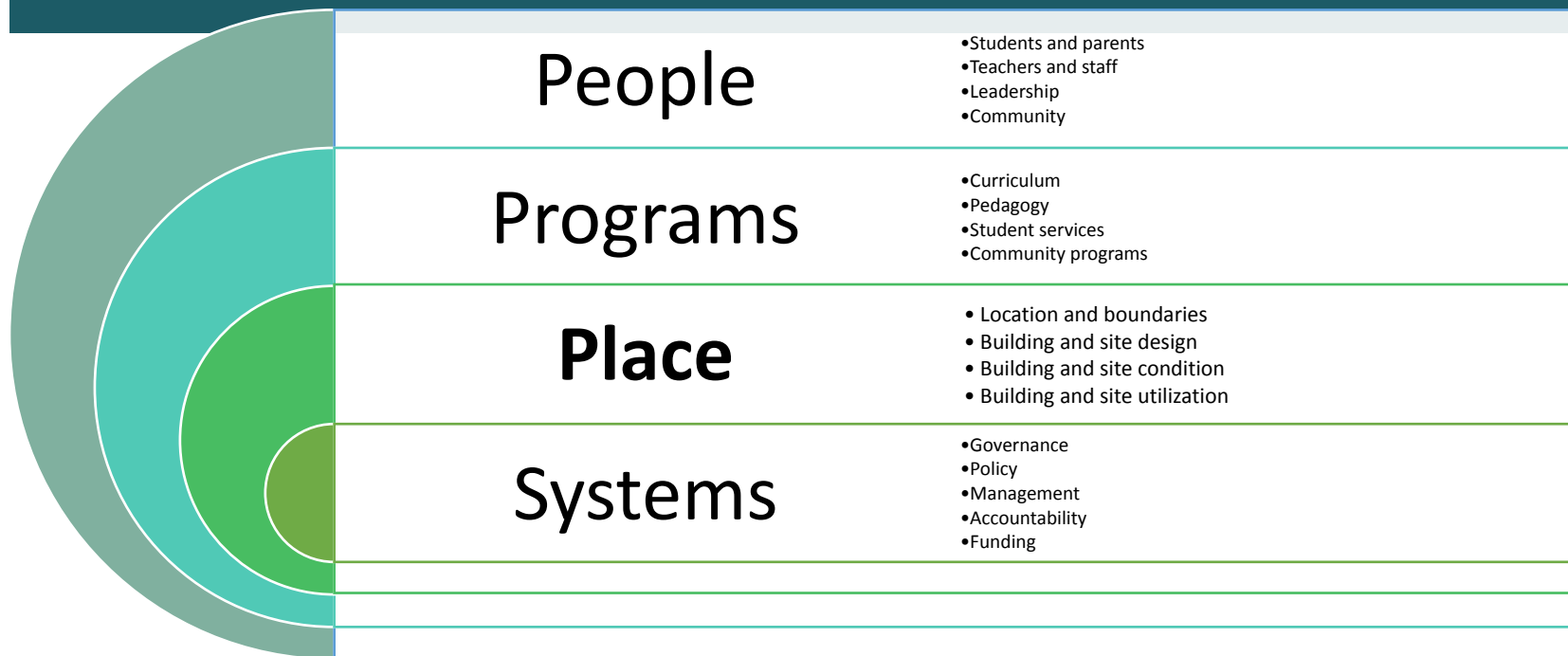
# 2021 STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS

AMERICA'S PK-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

**21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY  
SCHOOL FUND** | Improving Public School  
Facilities for All Children



# Context for Public Education Infrastructure



# PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INVENTORY

- 55 million people – 50 million children & 5 million adults
- 100,000 elementary and secondary public schools
- 8.1 billion gross square feet of school district buildings
- 2 million acres of land
- 2020 replacement value of \$2.79 trillion



# CHALLENGING CONDITIONS

- **Average Age**
  - Buildings, systems, components, fixtures, equipment, finishes
- **New knowledge**
  - Children, education, health, environment, building systems
- **Dynamic context**
  - Population change
  - Community and neighborhood changes
  - Economic change

The nation is now facing a staggering  
**\$85 BILLION**  
school facilities funding gap every single year.

Specifically, the report finds a massive annual capital investment gap of

**\$57.4 BILLION**

despite an annual *\$54.1 billion* average investment in capital improvements by U.S. public school districts from FY09-19 in 2020\$.

**Annual Gap for Capital  
Improvements**

In addition, the report finds an annual maintenance and operations gap of

**\$27.6 BILLION**

despite an annual *\$56 billion* spent on facilities maintenance and operations by U.S. public school districts.

**Annual Gap for  
Maintenance  
& Operations**

Together, the *\$57.4 billion* capital improvement gap with the *\$27.6 billion* maintenance and operations gap totals

**\$85 BILLION**

in annual underfunding in school facility infrastructure.

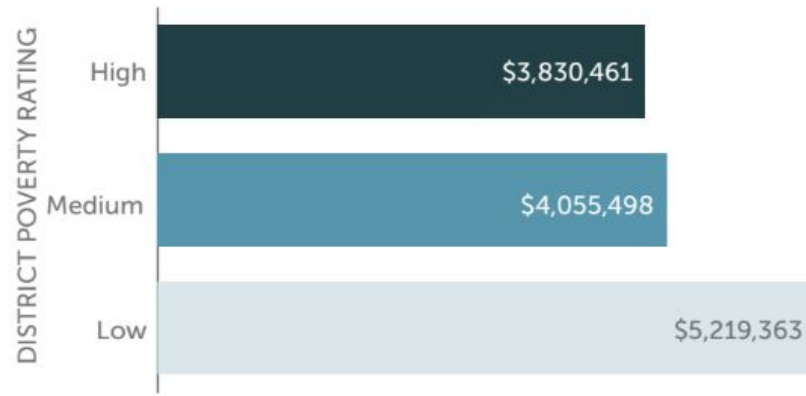
**Total Annual Gap for  
Nation's  
PK-12 Public Facilities**

What the impact of mostly **local funding vs state and federal funding**?

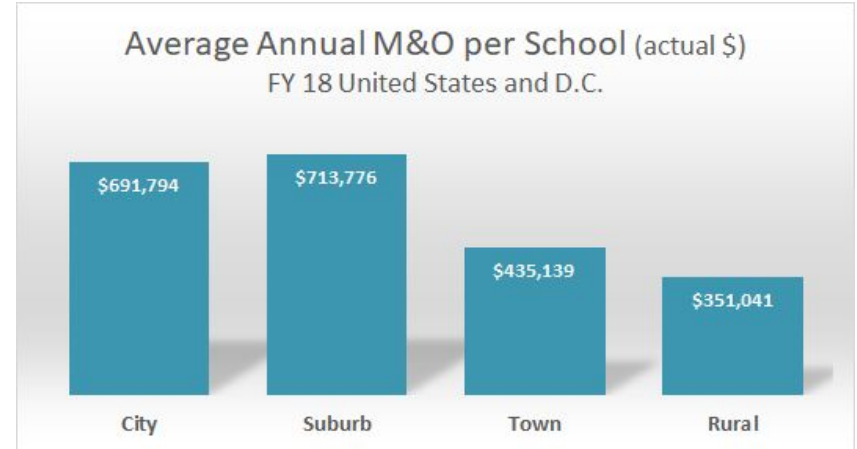
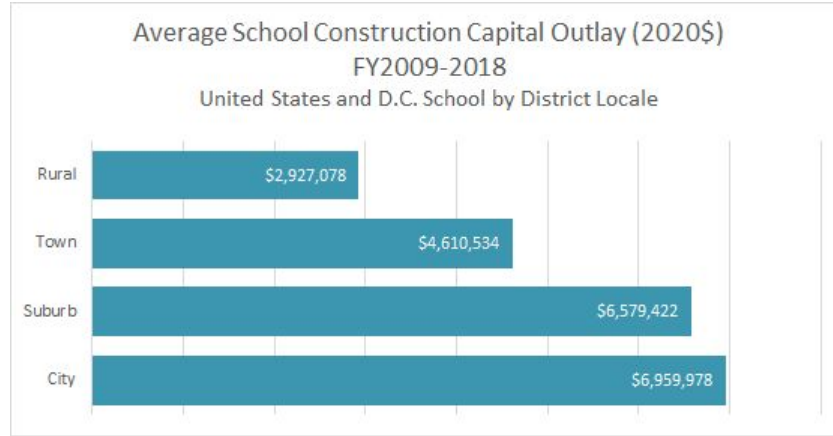
## INEQUITY IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

**CHART 6:** High Poverty Districts Spent 37% less Per School on Capital Investments than Low Poverty Districts, but Medium Poverty Districts fared little better than High Poverty Districts.

*10 Years of School District Construction per School by % Economically Disadvantaged Students FY09-18*



## DISPARITY IN FACILITIES BY LOCALE

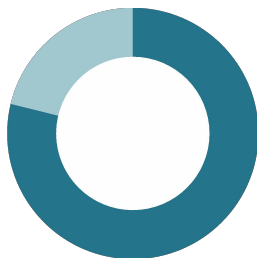


- Rural districts no matter their student family poverty levels invested far less, on average, per school for school construction and for maintenance and operations than schools in other locales.
- Urban districts have high levels of average capital investment per school and high levels of **M&O expenditures—even as they serve high poverty students.** Undertaking construction and maintenance and operations in urban markets, and in older schools, costs more.

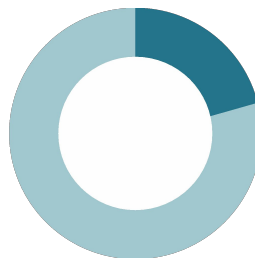
# SCHOOL FUNDING SKEWS LOCAL

## SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING SOURCES RESULTS IN INEQUITY

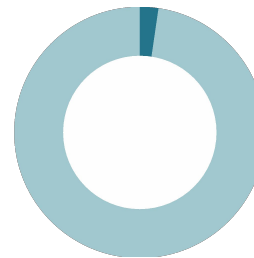
In the U.S., PK-12 school facilities are the second largest infrastructure capital expense behind highways. However, unlike transportation, which has most of its capital costs paid from federal and state sources, local school districts bear the heaviest responsibilities for school construction capital funding:



Local school districts paid nearly **77 percent** of the costs for PK-12 capital projects during the fiscal years 2009 to 2019.



States paid, on average, **22 percent** for capital expense and debt service. State support is highly varied, however, as this ranged from 12 states that paid nothing to some states paying over 50 percent of district level capital costs.



Public school districts received slightly more than **1 percent** from federal funds about \$7.1 billion in 2020\$ during FY09-19 for school construction.

# SCHOOL FUNDING SKEWS LOCAL

## LOCAL DISTRICTS ARE PUTTING FORTH GREAT EFFORT

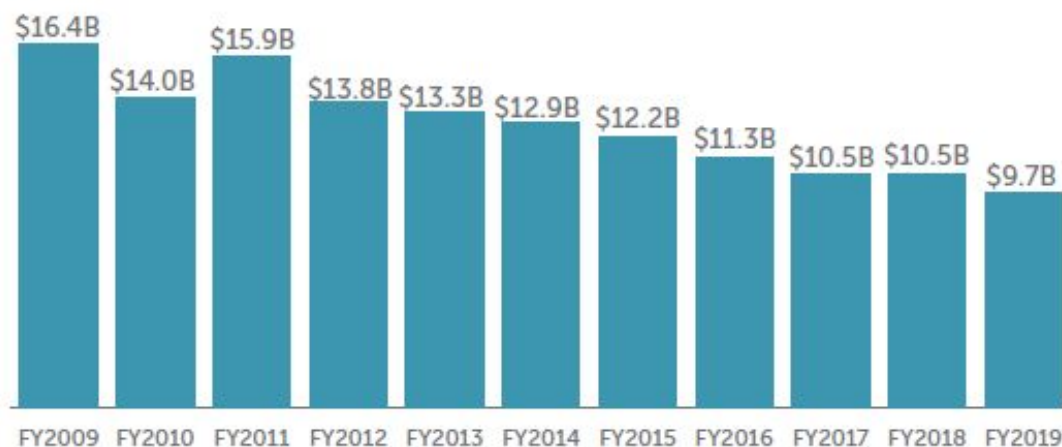
- Local districts held **\$486 billion** in long-term debt at the end of fiscal year 2019, a national average of slightly over **\$11,000 per student**.
- School districts paid **\$20 billion** in FY2019 for interest on their long-term debt—an annual amount that is \$4 billion higher than the entirety of U.S. Department of Education Title I funding for disadvantaged students.



## STATE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IS DECLINING

### CHART 8: State Support to Local School Districts for Capital Projects and Debt Service has Steadily Declined

*State funds paid to districts for capital projects and debt service FY2009-19 (2020\$)*



*Data Source: F-33 School District Fiscal Survey, U.S. Census of Governments, data field C11, inflation adjusted with the Turner Construction Index, corrections for Ohio, New York, and Oregon, where Districts did not report state building aid.*



# Results of Stakeholder Advocacy



STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

# Andrea Swiatocha

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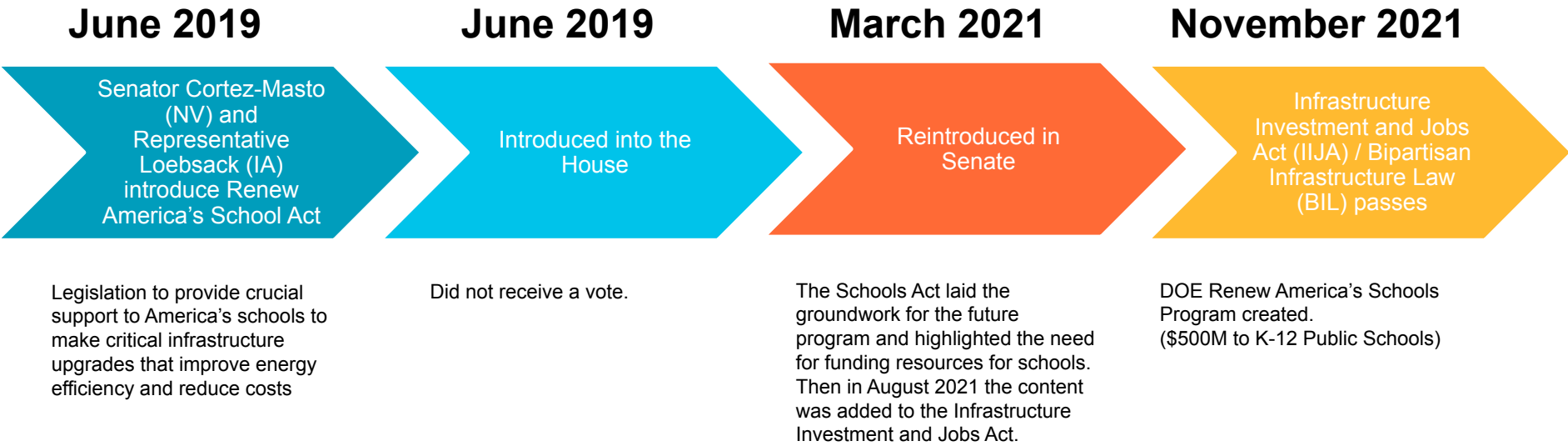
Schools Portfolio Lead  
Schools & Nonprofits Team  
U.S. Department of Energy



Climate change, resilience, and adaptation are increasingly of concern to school communities. Can you tell us about **programs that came about as the result of public advocacy** at your agency to **improve the efficiency of and decarbonize school buildings?**

# Advocacy – DOE Renew America's Schools Program

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# Renew America's Schools (BIL Provision 40541)

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New competitive grant program for energy improvements at public school facilities

## Funding

\$500M (\$100M over five years, FY22-FY26), until expended, through competitive grants.



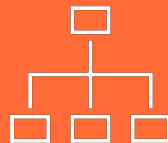
## Qualifying Energy Improvements

Improvements, repairs, or renovations that reduce energy costs or lead to improved teacher and student health and achieve energy savings.



## Eligible Entities

Consortia of 1 local educational agency (LEA) and one or more schools, non-profits, for-profits, or community partners.



## Prioritization

Schools with improvement funding needs, high free and reduced-price lunch percentage or rural locale, and leverage private sector funding through performance contracting.



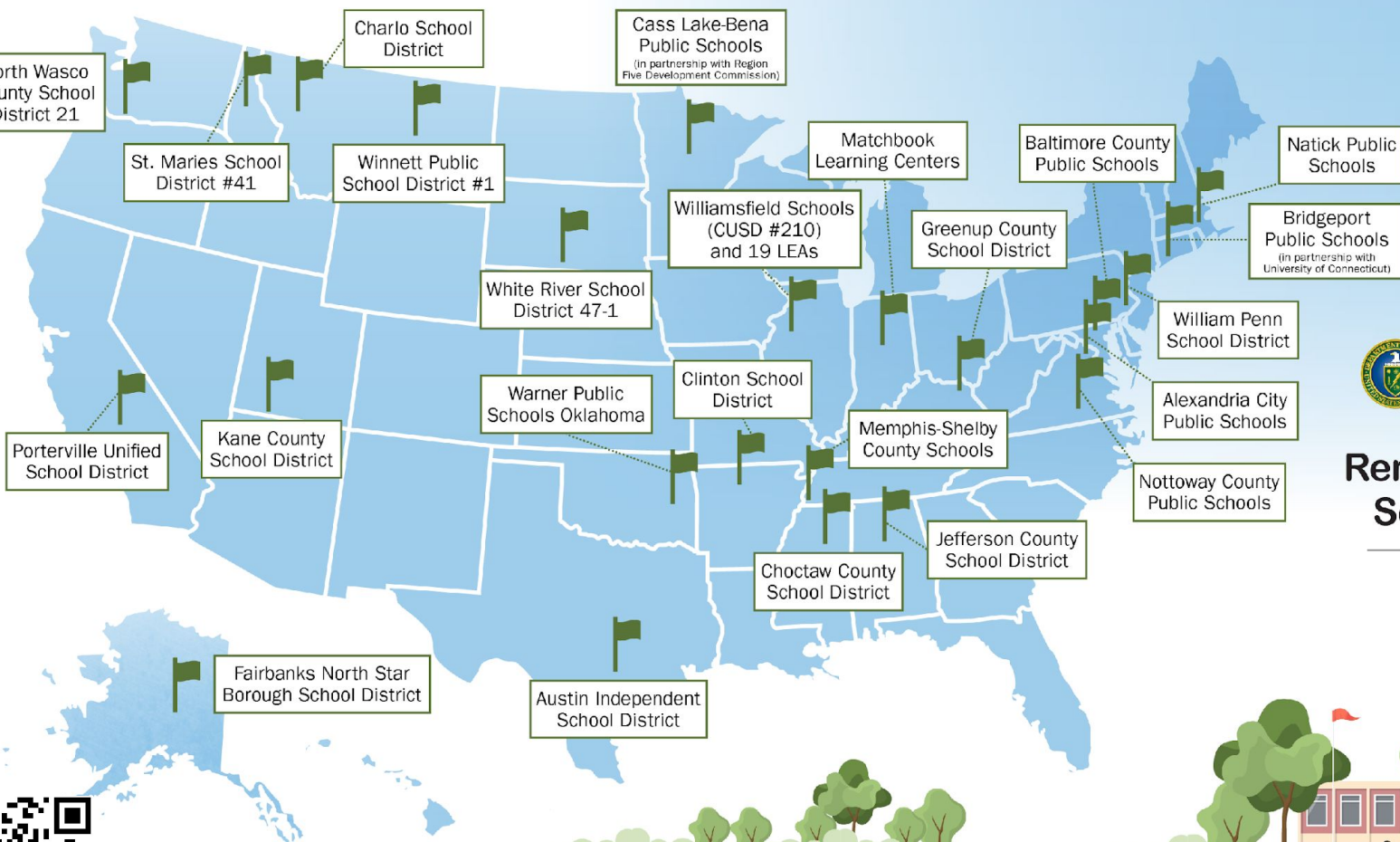
DOE  
announced  
**\$178M**



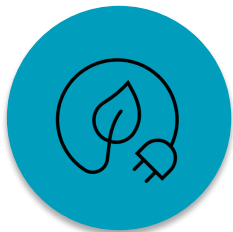
**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

## Renew America's Schools Grant

**2022-2023  
Selectees**



# Selectee (24) Highlights



**15\*** Selectees have schools located in a **DAC**, including **5** in **Tribal areas**



The Selectees have a combined **Free & Reduced-Price** Lunch average of **70%**

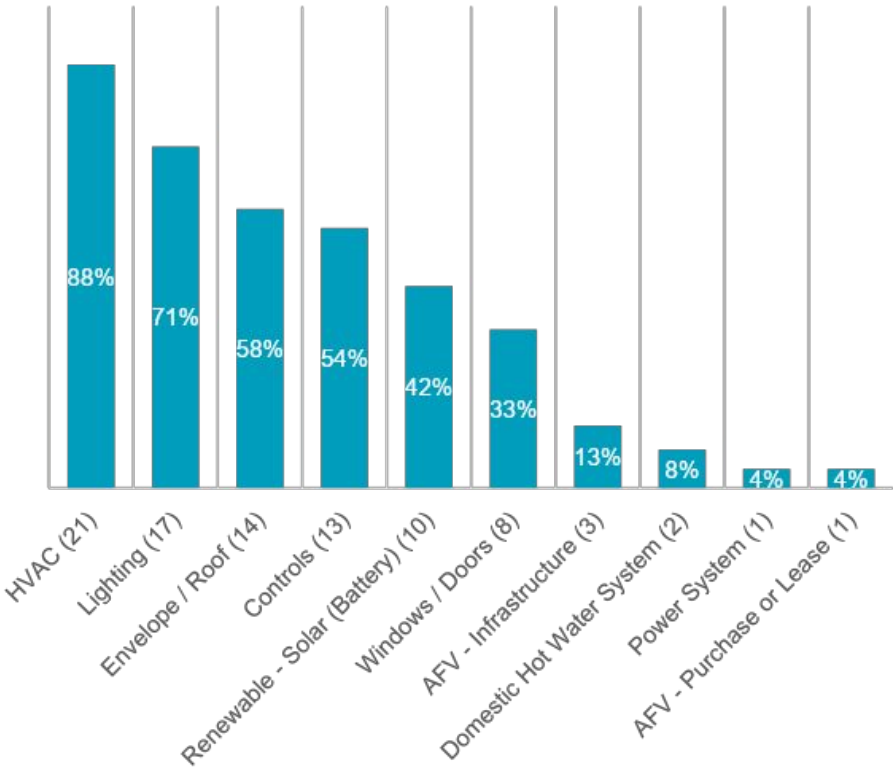


**14** Selectees are in a **Rural Locale**



**23** Selectees are **Title 1** schools

requested Improvements



\*15 projects note the transition to **electrification** for HVAC improvements

# Tax Credit Opportunity: IRS Elective Pay (“Direct Pay”)



## Clean Energy Tax Incentives: Elective Pay Eligible Tax Credits

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (“IRA”) makes several clean energy tax credits available to businesses; tax-exempt organizations; state, local, and tribal governments; other entities; and individuals. The IRA also enables entities to take advantage of certain clean energy tax credits through its elective pay provision (also colloquially known as direct pay). Elective pay allows several types of entities, such as tax-exempt and governments, to treat the amount of certain credits as a payment against tax on their tax returns and as a result receive direct payments for certain clean energy tax credits.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (“IRA”) makes several clean energy tax credits available to businesses; tax-exempt organizations; state, local, and tribal governments; other entities; and individuals. The IRA also enables entities to take advantage of certain clean energy tax credits through its elective pay provision (also colloquially known as direct pay).

	Tax Provision	Description
Energy Generation & Carbon Capture	Production Tax Credit for Electricity from Renewables (§ 45, pre-2025)	For production of electricity from <b>eligible renewable sources</b> , including wind, biomass, geothermal, solar, small irrigation, landfill and trash, hydropower, marine and hydrokinetic energy. <b>Credit Amount</b> (for 2022): 0.55 cents/kilowatt (kW); (1/2 rate for electricity produced from open loop biomass, landfill gas, and trash); 2.75 cents/kW if Prevailing Wage and Apprenticeship (PWA) rules are met. <sup>1,2,7</sup>
	Clean Electricity Production Tax Credit (§ 45V, 2025 onwards)	Technology-neutral tax credit for production of <b>clean electricity</b> . Replaces § 45 for facilities that begin construction and are placed in service after 2024. <b>Credit Amount:</b> Starts in 2025, consistent with credit amounts under section 45. <sup>1,3,4,7</sup>
	Investment Tax Credit for Energy Property (§ 46, pre-2025)	For investment in <b>renewable energy projects</b> including fuel cell, solar, geothermal, small wind, energy storage, biogas, microgrid controllers, and combined heat and power properties. <b>Credit Amount:</b> 6% of qualified investment (basis); 30% if PWA requirements met. <sup>1,4,5,6</sup>
	Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit (§ 48E, 2025 onwards)	Technology-neutral tax credit for investment in facilities that generate <b>clean electricity</b> and qualified energy storage technologies. Replaces § 48 for facilities that begin construction and are placed in service after 2024. <b>Credit Amount:</b> 6% of qualified investment (basis); 30% if PWA requirements met. <sup>1,4,5</sup>
	Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit (§ 49(e), 48E(h) Application required)	Additional investment tax credit for small-scale solar and wind (§ 48(e)) or clean electricity (§ 48E(h)) facilities (<5MW net output) on Indian land, federally subsidized housing, in low-income communities, and benefit low-income households. Allocated through an application process. <b>Credit Amount:</b> 10 or 20 percentage point increase on base investment tax credit. <sup>7</sup>
	Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration (§ 45Q)	Credit for carbon dioxide sequestration coupled with permitted end uses in the United States. <b>Credit Amount:</b> \$12-36 per metric ton of qualified carbon dioxide captured and sequestered, used as a tertiary injectant, or used, depending on the specified end use; \$60-\$180 per metric ton if PWA requirements met. <sup>1,7</sup>
Manufacturing	Zero-Emission Nuclear Power Production Credit (§ 45J)	For electricity from <b>nuclear power facilities</b> . Facilities in operation prior to August 16, 2022. <b>Credit Amount</b> (for 2023): 0.3 cents/kWh (reduced rate for larger facilities); 1.5 cents/kWh if PWA req't met. <sup>1,7</sup>
	Advanced Energy Project Credit (§ 48C) Application required	For investments in <b>advanced energy projects</b> . A total of \$10 billion will be allocated, not less than \$4 billion of which will be allocated to projects in certain energy communities. <b>Credit Amount:</b> 6% of taxpayer's qualified investment; 30% if PWA requirements are met. <sup>1</sup>
	Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit (§ 45K)	Production tax credit for <b>domestic clean energy manufacturing</b> of components including solar and wind energy, inverters, battery components, and critical materials. <b>Credit Amount:</b> Varies by component
Vehicles	Credit for Qualified Commercial Clean Vehicles (§ 45W)	For purchasers of <b>commercial clean vehicles</b> . Qualifying vehicles include passenger vehicles, buses, ambulances, and certain other vehicles for use on public streets, roads, and highways. <b>Credit Amount:</b> Up to \$40,000 (max \$7,500 for vehicles <14,000 lbs) <sup>9</sup>
	Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit (§ 30C)	For alternative fuel vehicle refueling and <b>charging property</b> , located in low-income and non-urban areas. Qualified fuels include electricity, ethanol, natural gas, hydrogen, and biodiesel. <b>Credit Amount:</b> 6% of basis for businesses and can increase to 30% if PWA is met.
Fuels	Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit (§ 45V)	For producing clean hydrogen at a qualified, U.S.-based clean hydrogen production facility. <b>Credit Amount:</b> \$0.60/kg multiplied by the applicable percentage (20% to 100%, depending on lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions); amount increases if PWA is met. <sup>1,7</sup>
	Clean Fuel Production Credit (§ 45Z, 2025 onwards)	Technology neutral tax credit for domestic production of <b>clean transportation fuels</b> , including sustainable aviation fuels, beginning in 2025. <b>Credit Amount:</b> \$0.20/gallon (\$0.35/gal for aviation fuel) multiplied by CO2 “emissions factor”; \$1.00/gallon (\$1.75/gal for aviation fuel) multiplied by CO2 “emissions factor” if PWA is met. <sup>1,7</sup>

### Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit (§ 48E, 2025 onwards)

Technology-neutral tax credit for investment in facilities that generate **clean electricity** and qualified energy storage technologies. Replaces § 48 for facilities that begin construction and are placed in service after 2024  
**Credit Amount:** 6% of qualified investment (basis); 30% if PWA requirements met.<sup>1,4,5,6</sup>

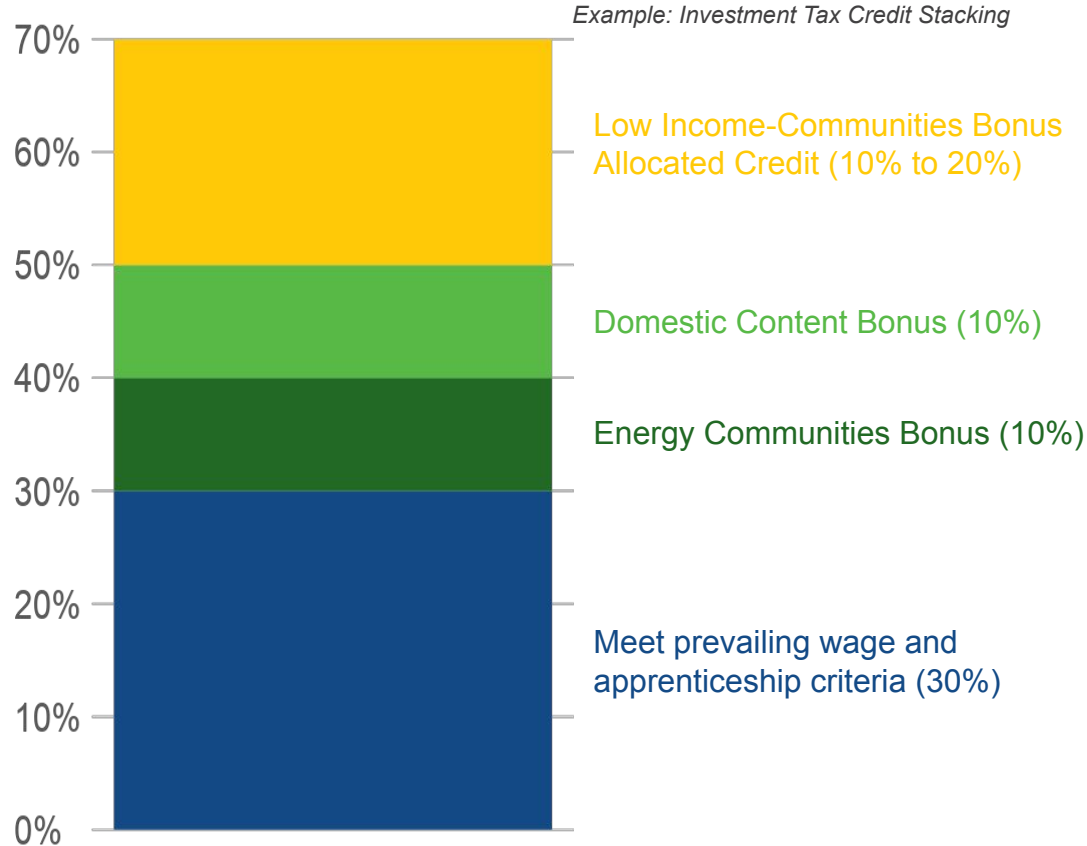
### Credit for Qualified Commercial Clean Vehicles (§ 45W)

For purchasers of **commercial clean vehicles**. Qualifying vehicles include passenger vehicles, buses, ambulances, and certain other vehicles for use on public streets, roads, and highways.  
**Credit Amount:** Up to \$40,000 (max \$7,500 for vehicles <14,000 lbs)<sup>9</sup>

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/elective-pay-and-transferability>



# IRS Elective Pay (“Direct Pay”) - Investment Tax Credit



Receive a direct cash payment from the IRS for installing clean energy technologies:

Fuel | Solar | Geothermal | Small Wind | Energy Storage |  
Biogas | Microgrid Controllers | Combined Heat and Power Properties

**Tax credit bonuses can stack** with the underlying tax credit creating significant opportunity for eligible projects.

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/elective-pay-and-transferability-frequently-asked-questions-elective-pay>



# Andrea Falken

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Special Advisor for Infrastructure and Sustainability  
U.S. Department of Education



We know a major challenge in school facilities is capacity at the local and state levels. What programs have been successfully enacted as the result of advocacy to **improve state and local capacity to plan, design, finance, operate, and maintain school facilities?**



## Infrastructure and Sustainability Initiative

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/infrastructure-sustainability/index.html>

Promotes equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, 21st century school facilities, and environmental sustainability education.

- Recognizes and highlights successes through our recognition award.
- Liaises with stakeholders, other agencies, and states.
- Disseminates resources and increases national awareness.





# School Infrastructure Programs

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/school-infrastructure-programs-sip/>

Two new grants focused on ensuring that school facilities and grounds provide safe, healthy, sustainable, and equitable learning environments.

Grant:	Supporting America's School Infrastructure Grants (SASI)	National Center on School Infrastructure (NCSI)
Purpose	Increase the capacity of States to support high-need LEAs and schools in leveraging other available Federal, State, and local resources to improve school facilities and environments for all students.	Establish a technical assistance center for school infrastructure that will support SASI grantees and high-need districts across the nation.
Type	Discretionary	Cooperative
Award Amounts	8-12 state grants, a total of \$40 million	One grant, \$2 million a year for up to 5 years.
Timeline	Grantee announcements in Fall 2023	



## Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (CLASS) Prize

- Created in response to **overwhelming need for staff and training** around energy management in schools.
- Technical assistance programming **meant to fill a gap and complement Renew America's Schools FOA** funding for capital improvements.
- Seeks to build capacity within local educational agencies (LEAs) to **identify and implement energy and health improvements** in their facilities and classrooms.
- Provides resources to staff and **trains personnel on operations and maintenance, strategic energy management, project development, funding pathways, and related topics** to deepen bandwidth and knowledge for advancing the fiscal and environmental sustainability of their schools.



Becky Cook-Shyovitz

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Healthy Schools Coordinator  
Office of Children's Health Protection  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



The COVID-19 pandemic brought to the forefront the importance of air quality in schools for health, achievement, and even schools' ability to remain open. What **federal resources are available to improve air quality** in and around schools?



## FEDERAL AIR QUALITY RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- [EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Action Kit](#) shows schools how to carry out a practical plan to improve indoor air problems at little- or no-cost.
- [EPA's Community Change Block Grants Program](#): \$2 Billion for environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution (**including indoor air pollution**), increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges.

## FEDERAL AIR QUALITY RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Up to \$37.5 million in EPA grant funding to address greenhouse gas emissions and indoor air pollution in K-12 schools located in low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. Applications will be accepted as early as December, 2023.



# Overview of the Clean School Bus Program

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- Under **Title XI: Clean School Buses and Ferries**, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides **\$5 billion** over five years (FY22-26) for the replacement of existing school buses with zero-emission and clean school buses.

## CSB Funding Opportunities


- EPA has offered rebates and grants in past funding opportunities.
- EPA is offering another round of rebate funding.
- The 2023 Rebates is the third CSB funding opportunity.



**EPA CLEAN  
SCHOOL BUS**




# Why Clean School Buses?

A yellow circular icon containing a black silhouette of a factory with smokestacks.


## Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions

CSBs emit zero or low tailpipe emissions.

A blue circular icon containing a white stylized symbol for air or wind.

## Cleaner Air

CSBs result in cleaner air on the bus, in bus loading areas, and in the communities in which they operate.

A blue circular icon containing a white stylized symbol for money or a wallet.


## Cost Savings

Replacing older diesel school buses with CSBs often reduces maintenance and fuel costs.

A blue circular icon containing a white lightning bolt symbol.

## Resiliency

Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) capable CSBs can provide power to the grid or buildings during power shutdowns.

A blue circular icon containing a white stylized symbol of a teacher at a board and students.

## Improved Student Attendance & Achievement

The transport of students with CSBs has been linked to student attendance and academic achievement improvements.



# 2023 CSB Rebate Program Overview



EPA is offering at least **\$500 million** for clean school buses and ZE school buses. EPA may modify this amount based on the applicant pool and other pertinent factors. Funds are subject to availability and total awards may be higher or lower than the anticipated funds offered update if changed.



Eligible activities include the **replacement of existing internal-combustion engine (ICE) school buses with electric, propane, or compressed natural gas (CNG) school buses**, as well as the purchase and installation of **electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) infrastructure**.



EPA is prioritizing applications that will replace buses serving **high-need local education agencies, Tribal school districts funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or those receiving basic support payments for students living on Tribal land, and rural areas**. EPA is committed to ensuring the CSB Program delivers on the Justice40 Initiative.



Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.  
For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus).



**EPA CLEAN  
SCHOOL BUS**

Have you worked on American Rescue Plan  
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief  
(ESSER) funded projects?

A. Yes

B. No

C. I don't know



## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) & American Rescue Plan (ARP)

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/>

\$122B through states to their districts to help schools prevent the spread of COVID-19 and recover from its effects, including by improving indoor air quality.

Wide variety of projects eligible, including inspections, repairs, purchasing, servicing for fans, ventilation, filtration, windows, monitors, and more.

In May, ED released updates and resources on liquidation extensions and Davis-Bacon.

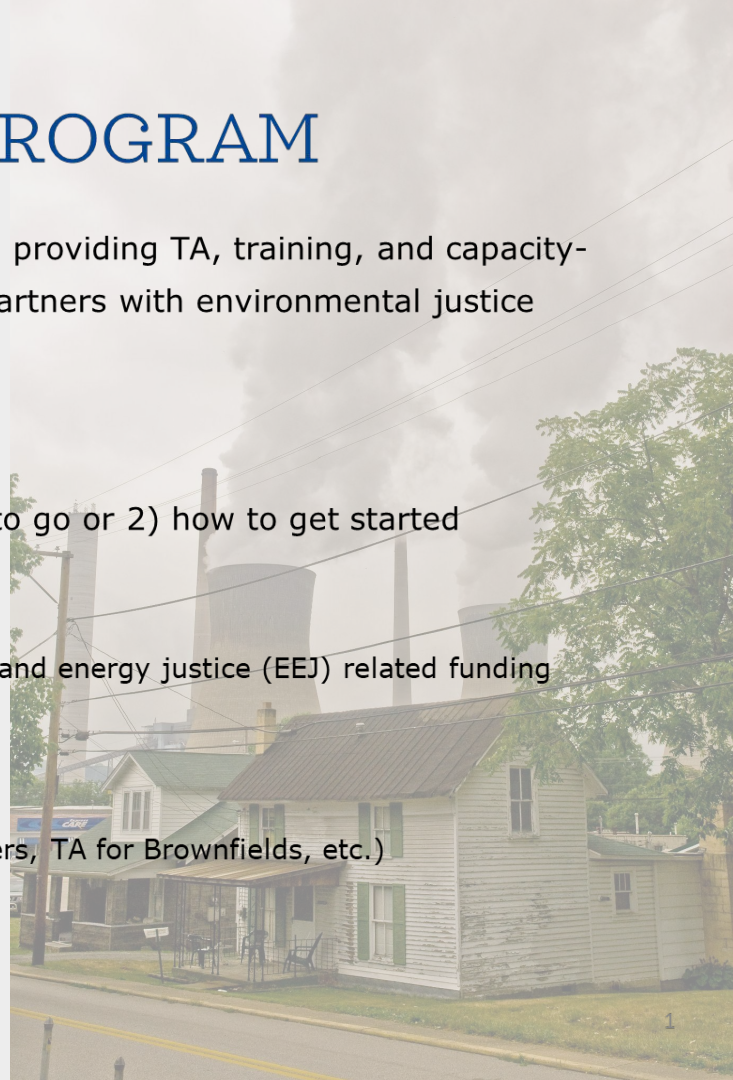
**ESSER III funds are eligible for obligation until September 2024.**

At public urging, this administration has made environmental justice a priority through its Justice40 Initiative. What programs does your agency now manage to **support equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, resilient, 21st century school environments?**



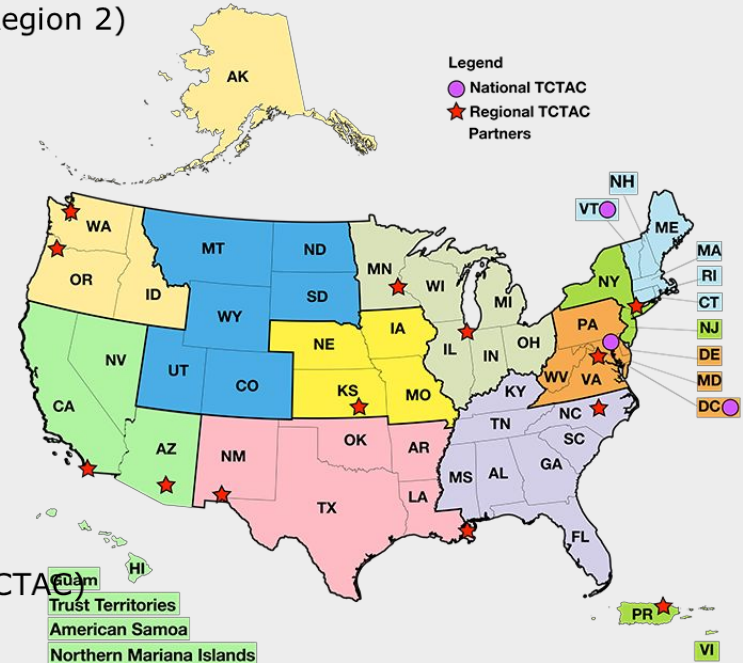
# PURPOSE/GOALS OF EJ TCTAC PROGRAM

- Goal is to establish a **network** of Regional and National EJ TCTACs providing TA, training, and capacity-building support for organizations, stakeholders, and community partners with environmental justice concerns.
- EJ TCTACs are the **primary** entry point for communities
  - Primarily serve community groups that: 1) don't know where to go or 2) how to get started
- Examples of TA and training services provided:
  - **Grant writing training to strengthen** applications for environmental and energy justice (EEJ) related funding
  - Managing federal grants (e.g., accounting, policies, controls)
  - Identifying funding sources to apply for (federal, local, private)
  - Navigating government grant systems such as SAM.gov and Grants.gov
  - Developing partnerships and coalitions addressing EEJ issues
  - Referrals to specialized TA providers (e.g., Environmental Finance Centers, TA for Brownfields, etc.)



# CURRENT SELECTEE/AWARDEE LIST

- 1) West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (EPA Region 2)
- 2) Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metro Campus (EPA Region 2)
- 3) National Wildlife Federation (EPA Region 3)
- 4) Deep South Center for EJ (EPA Regions 4 and 6)
- 5) Research Triangle Institute (EPA Region 4)
- 6) Blacks in Green (EPA Region 5)
- 7) University of Minnesota (EPA Region 5)
- 8) New Mexico State University (EPA Region 6)
- 9) Wichita State University (EPA Region 7)
- 10) University of Arizona (EPA Region 9)
- 11) San Diego State University (EPA Region 9)
- 12) Willamette Partnership (EPA Region 10)
- 13) University of Washington (EPA Region 10)
- 14) International City/County Management Association (National TCTAC)
- 15) Institute for Sustainable Communities (National TCTAC)
- 16) National Indian Health Board (National TCTAC)



There are some bright spots in school infrastructure.  
**How have advocates led to your agency offering  
recognition for this work?** How can schools obtain  
this recognition?

# U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Recognition Awards


Federal recognition at the intersection of school facilities and grounds, health and wellness, and sustainability education.

States nominate to ED annually.

Schools, districts, postsecondary, early learning, public, private, charter all eligible.

Honorees announced around Earth Day and invited to send representatives to a summer ceremony in DC.

Since 2012, ED has recognized over 700 honorees from 46 different nominating authorities.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**GREEN RIBBON  
SCHOOLS**

The graphic features a green ribbon that forms the outline of a house. A green plant with two leaves grows from the roof of the house. The text 'U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION' is written in a light green, sans-serif font, arched over the top of the house. Below it, the words 'GREEN RIBBON' and 'SCHOOLS' are written in a bold, green, sans-serif font, also arched over the house. The background is white with several small, dark blue, four-pointed stars scattered across it.



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS PILLARS AND ELEMENTS

### Pillar 1 REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Energy  
Water  
Waste  
Transport  
Emissions



### Pillar 2 IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Environ-  
mental  
Health  
Physical  
Activity  
Nutrition



### Pillar 3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

Green  
Career  
Pathways  
STEM  
Outdoor  
Learning





# Efficient and Healthy Schools Program



## The Program...

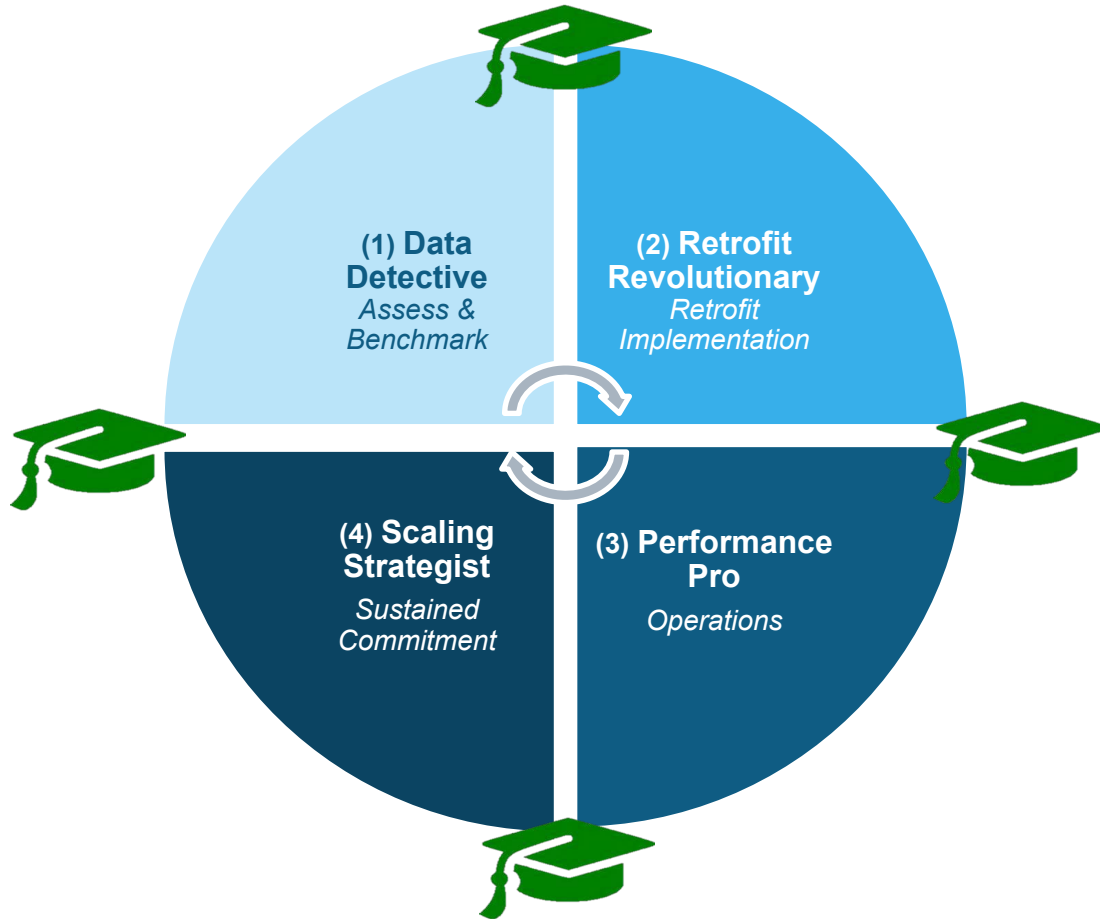
aims to improve energy performance, reduce carbon emissions, and promote a **healthy learning environment** in schools.

engages **K-12 schools**, especially those serving low-income student populations and in rural areas.

provides **technical assistance** through direct consultations and **recognition** of exemplary school improvements.



# Efficient and Healthy Schools: TA & Recognition Cycle



## All Phases Offer

- Tangible TA menu administered all year long by LBNL & NBI
- Peer-learning in cohorts of districts facilitated by NBI
- Mentorship from willing phase or cycle graduates
- Financing & funding development
- Packaged resource sharing by NBI

# Better Buildings Initiative Partnership Pathways

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- **Reduce energy intensity use by least 20% within 10-years**
  - Conduct an energy efficiency assessment of building portfolio and complete at least one showcase project and one implementation model. Report data annually to track progress
  - Report results by sharing cost-effective approaches for saving energy and performance data that demonstrate their success
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- **Reduce GHG emissions (scope 1&2) by at least 50% within 10-years and set an energy efficiency target**
  - Develop emission reduction plan with milestone & report data annually to track progress using standardized framework
  - Share information on strategies implemented and participate in at least one working group to discuss barriers, exchange best practices, and identify solutions



# Better Buildings: Partnership Benefits

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	Better Buildings Challenge	Better Climate Challenge
National recognition and media events to spotlight achievements	●	●
Peer-to-peer networking	●	●
Expert-led technical teams	●	●
Option to join Water Savings or Waste Reduction Networks	●	●
Access to Better Buildings Alliance Partners	●	●
Technical assistance on portfolio energy use	●	●
Quarterly meetings with technical account managers in first year of partnership		●
Access to facilitated peer-to-peer working groups		●
Technical assistance on portfolio decarbonization		●

The Flint water crisis brought water quality into the public consciousness. Since then, what programs have been implemented or enhanced to **ensure healthy, safe water in school facilities?**

# *EPA Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program*



- EPA provides funding through the Grant Program to states for lead testing and remediation in drinking water in schools and child care facilities.
- States cannot be less stringent than the EPA 3Ts approach – Training, Testing and Taking Action.

# What lead remediation efforts does the grant support?

## Use grant to replace, remove, install:

- internal plumbing
- faucets
- water fountains
- water filler stations
- Point-of-Use (POU) devices (e.g., NSF/ANSI certified filters)
- lead service lines
- other lead apparatus related to drinking water



# How to Access the U.S. EPA Grant Funding?

- EPA → State → Schools and Child Care/Early Childhood facilities
- Program participation varies with state administrations
- Contact your state agencies administering the program on participation and information. State agency contacts are available at the following link:
  - <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-2107-lead-testing-school-and-child-care-program-drinking-water-state-grant-program>



Have you engaged with your state or federal congressional representatives on school facility issues?

A. Yes


B. No

C. I don't know

# Moving Forward: Opportunities to Advocate

What are your **goals and aspirations** for your **program** moving forward?





# EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHY, SAFE, SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, 21ST CENTURY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS



# Climate Resilient Schools



## Schools as Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers

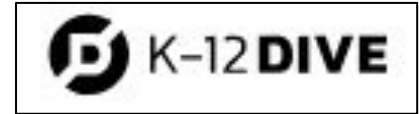
### Tips for Facilities Managers

Communities are facing the impacts of climate change, including severe health consequences from heat waves and wildfires. EPA launched a pilot project in 2021 called Schools as Community Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers to address the combined hazards of extreme heat and wildfire smoke with a focus on spaces that serve children. The goals of this project are to support practical strategies for safeguarding children in schools during heat and smoke events.

# Department of Energy - Raising Awareness, Raising the Bar



Public engagement with the Renew America's Schools program has heightened our commitment to invest in energy infrastructure at schools across America. As we move into this next school year, DOE will continue to provide both funding and learning opportunities for schools making energy improvements, and we will continue working behind-the-scenes to build a network of support so that more schools have access to the training and funding they need to bring energy improvements to their communities.



How can we help? How do we **advocate as architects and facility managers?**

# NEED FOR YOUR VOICE

- JOIN THE [Re]Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition
- **BASIC**
- [www.buildUSschools.org](http://www.buildUSschools.org)



# Questions