



Statewide state of condition of academic facilities

*For the Governor, the House Committee on
Education, the Senate Committee on
Education, and the Academic Facilities
Oversight Committee*

October 1, 2006

2006 Report on condition of academic facilities statewide

Preamble “...to ensure that adequate facilities and substantially equal facilities are, and will continue to be provided for Arkansas’ school children.” —Act 1181 of 2003

The Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation submits this annual report pursuant to Act 1327 of the Regular Session of 2005. This report conveys the progress of actions undertaken by the Arkansas school districts to enhance, renovate, and add to the state’s school facilities toward the goal of equitable surroundings for education.

The units of measure to track the advancement of the condition of our public school systems are the 12 general building and design systems of major facility structures as outlined in the referenced act. These are:

- A) site land and improvements
- B) roofing
- C) exterior
- D) structure
- E) interior
- F) heating ventilation and air conditioning
- G) plumbing and water supply
- H) electrical
- I) technology
- J) fire and safety
- K) specialty items
- L) space utilization

The programs enacted by various legislation have defined the state’s participation into three general programs.

- A) Academic Facilities Immediate Repair Program. State financial participation was made available for eligible projects designed to address the correction of deficiencies in academic facilities that present an immediate hazard to health or safety of students and staff, meeting minimum health and safety building standards, or the extraordinary deterioration of the academic facility. To be eligible for this program the deficiencies must have been in existence on January 1, 2005. Applications must have been made to the Division by July 1, 2005. The estimated cost of the Immediate Repair project had to have been a minimum of \$100 per student or \$ 50,000.
- B) The Transitional Academic Facilities Program. State financial participation was made available to the school districts in the form of a reimbursement for eligible new construction projects for which debt was incurred or funds were spent after January 1, 2005 and on or before June 30, 2006.

C) Academic Facilities Partnership Program. State financial participation is being made available in the form of cash payments to school districts for eligible new construction projects. A new construction project includes any improvement to an academic facility and, if necessary, related areas such as the physical plant and grounds that bring the state of condition or efficiency of the academic facility to a state of condition or efficiency better than the facility's original condition of completeness or efficiency. New construction includes addition to existing academic facilities and new academic facilities.

Participation in these three programs has been outstanding. The infusion of state funds to augment locally derived funds to improve and enhance the state's academic facilities will prove to be beneficial to students, staff, and faculty, and will most assuredly prolong the life of the school districts facilities in addition to beginning to bring them up to equitable standards across the state.

Enclosed is a tabular form indicating projects that have been approved and funded under each of the three programs outlined above. In addition, it is compared to the 2004 state-wide assessment of school facilities.

As may be seen by a comparison to the original assessment, districts are beginning a conscious and earnest endeavor to correct their facilities and to begin to bring their facilities in line with academic standards and needs.

The conclusion can be drawn by the statistics provided, that Arkansas school facilities are beginning a slow revival toward becoming more equitable. The most recent information indicating the success of this program shows:

A) 301 Immediate Repair Projects, which were approved by the Commission, totaling \$ 76.6 million of which \$35.0 million was state participation. Due to combination projects that addressed multiple system needs, the 301 immediate repair projects addressed 586 system requirements. As of this date 178 of those projects have been funded with disbursements of \$20.3 million. This indicates that they are complete or in the process of being completed. Districts are required to notify the Division upon the completion of the project and file a final close out report.

B) The Commission for Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation approved 213 Transitional Program projects totaling over \$299 million. These 213 projects addressed 232 system requirements. To date, 106 of these projects have been reported as being completed. Of the state's share of \$ 86.9 million, the state has reimbursed the school districts \$ 26.6 million dollars to date.

C) The Partnership Program began with the application submission by March 1, 2006. To date, no projects have been reported as being completed. The state's share of the \$642.7 million of projects is \$277 million dollars.

The school districts are required to report to the Division by February 1, of each odd-numbered year the status and description of projects completed in the school district since the submission of the school district's most recent facilities master plan. The Division supplements these districts reports with onsite visits of construction and assistance visits in the preparation of future projects.

Summary and Conclusion

At this point in time it is too early to determine the overall impact of the first two programs as outlined above. The Immediate Repair Program appears to be successful as districts are responding well and many deficiencies identified in the 2004 assessment are being corrected. However, it will be imperative for school districts to utilize the mandated 9% of foundation funding expenditures for maintenance, renovation, and repair activities to complete necessary repairs identified in the assessment.

The new construction projects to build new facilities or improve existing facilities over the original condition that were initiated and funded under the Transitional Program have begun and will extend to the next two years.

It is anticipated that an increase of the Division's personnel next year will more readily accommodate an onsite inspection process which will enable this annual report to be more descriptive and definitive in the true condition of Arkansas school facilities.

Academic Facility Funding

	2004 Assessment		Immediate Repair		Transitional		Partnership 2006-2007
System	Project Cost	Activity	Project Cost	Activity	Project Cost	Activity	Project Cost
Site	\$139,716,067	17	\$1,966,806	21	\$4,800,732	122	\$5,009,038
Roofing	\$146,072,365	117	\$27,924,497	33	\$6,765,193	38	\$6,483,226
Exterior	\$118,275,848	51	\$1,579,047	6	\$219,388	61	\$1,514,547
Structure	\$35,082,118	24	\$1,797,291	1	\$717,868	14	\$1,531,400
Interior	\$303,854,470	57	\$4,864,490	15	\$2,766,418	133	\$10,761,590
HVAC	\$478,897,542	111	\$22,845,254	12	\$4,845,408	71	\$12,037,555
Plumbing	\$185,553,288	34	\$2,584,244	2	\$450,000	51	\$881,813
Electrical	\$130,198,114	3	\$845,467	4	\$802,761	65	\$3,761,843
Technology	\$29,215,108	12	\$1,776,949	17	\$757,868	39	\$556,931
Fire & Safety	\$106,701,773	101	\$7,438,429	5	\$50,990	291	\$5,066,028
Specialty	\$256,575,675	59	\$3,013,440	0	\$0	98	\$10,315,053
Space Utilization							
Suitability	\$556,700,000			55	\$84,814,071	106	\$225,636,728
Enrollment Growth	\$631,200,000			61	\$192,850,930	73	\$359,135,274
Totals	\$3,118,042,368	586	\$76,635,912	232	\$299,841,627	1162	\$642,691,025

Transitional totals consisted of an additional 1,087,625 square feet for suitability and 1,868,051 square feet for enrollment growth.

Partnership totals consisted of an additional 1,868,051 square feet for suitability and 2,377,357 square feet for enrollment growth.

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