



Key Points

- *America's schools are in desperate need of repair. A December 2008 study by the American Federation of Teachers estimates school-infrastructure needs at more than \$254 billion nationally.*
- *Numerous studies have shown that green, high performing schools improve the learning environment for students, promote healthier students and teachers, and cost less to operate through reduced energy consumption.*
- *The recession has forced many states and local school districts to put a hold on school modernization projects. A federal commitment to 21st century school renovation will get stalled projects moving, creating jobs in all 50 states.*

A Federal Commitment to 21st Century Schools

AIA Position

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) strongly supports government policies and programs that will spur the creation of high-performing, 21st century schools. Twenty-first century schools improve health and educational achievement, promote energy savings, and effect positive environmental change. A federal commitment to modernizing our nation's schools will also create jobs in the design and construction industry in all 50 states.

Action Sought

The AIA urges Congress to pass legislation that would provide funding to state and local school districts for the modernization and renovation of K-12 public schools. Specifically, the AIA calls on Congress to pass the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act of 2009 (H.R. 2187). This legislation was approved by the House in May 2009.

Explanation and Justification

Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology; all of which compromises their ability to achieve, succeed, and build the educational foundations necessary for the workforce of the 21st century. Modern, more energy efficient, green schools will improve the learning environment for students, enhance the workplace for teachers and school administrators, and – most importantly – create jobs in all 50 states.

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act will assist states and local communities in meeting these staggering needs through federal grants to local school districts for energy efficient school modernization projects. This legislation would provide \$6.4 billion in grants to states and local school districts at a time when significant fiscal relief for local school districts is needed.

H.R. 2187 will assist states in meeting the school facility needs of local communities by providing resources to repair, renovate, and modernize America's schools. It will stimulate the creation of more than 100,000 new jobs. These jobs will be generated in the construction industry among suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to roofing contractors and other construction workers who modernize, renovate, and repair schools.