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EFC Brief



*Improving the Places Where
Students Learn*

The Importance of School Facilities

Some Basic Facts



A few years ago the 21st Century School Fund shared a fact sheet with general composite information about school facility infrastructure (2011). The facts are: there are nearly 100,000 preK-12 public schools, which over 55 million school-age children attend, and over 6.6 billion

gross square footage of building space and 1 million acres of site area. The public investment is well worth discussion by educators. If we add this information to a more recent survey from the United States Department of Education via the National Center for Education Statistics (2014) on facilities, the facts are more startling. Of the 1800

schools surveyed, billions of dollars are needed for renovations and repairs, averaging \$4.5 million per school. Even with only a small portion of our total 100,000 public schools having the same needs, there is a crisis in the public schools our children attend.

References:

Condition of America's Public School Facilities: 2012-13. U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Report 2014-022 (March 2014).

PK-12 Public School Facility Infrastructure Fact Sheet. 21st Century School Fund (February, 2011).