

2

EFC Brief

February 12, 2015



*Improving the Places Where
Students Learn*

The Importance of School Facilities

Older Facilities Can be Safe



New car, old car? An antique Mustang or a brand new Camaro? Which is the safest? A '67 Mustang for example is a great car. Most of us would admit, however, that a new Camaro—with the latest in airbags, backup cameras, anti-lock brakes and stabilization, blind spot alerts, and many more bells and whistles—is the safest. The same can be said of new school buildings. Newer schools are perceived to be safer. A school,

university or local school agency (LEA) does not need to use the excuse of “no money” to make the places where our children learn more safe. In addition, schools with adequate funding need to make sure they pay attention to some of these suggestions. School disasters, safety problems, unhealthy schools are not simply relegated to poorer LEAs. Schools become safer when we “think safety” all of the time and not get upset when we have to get a badge in the school office to

visit our child’s classroom or when we are asked to park in a particular area to provide safe ingress and egress of the school site. School safety is not just the job of the administration and teachers; it is the community’s job. There are many things we all can do that cost little or nothing to make the places where children learn safe. So, in regards to school safety, do we buy a new Camaro, or retrofit and remodel the antique Mustang to improve its safety?