



# REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

A National Coalition

National Parent Teacher Association □ Council of The Great City Schools □ National Education Association  
American Federation of Teachers □ American Association of School Administrators □ National School Boards Association  
National Association of Elementary School Principals □ National Association of Secondary School Principals  
NAACP □ National Association of Federally Impacted Schools □ American Institute of Architects  
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education □ National Rural Education Association  
Californians for School Facilities

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Akron, OH
- Aldine, TX
- Birmingham City, AL
- Birmingham Public, AL
- Boston, MA
- Broward County, FL
- Brownsville, TX
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Clark County, NV
- Compton, CA
- Corpus Christi, TX
- Dayton, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Escambia, FL
- Houston, TX
- Jefferson Parish, LA
- Jersey City, NJ
- McAllen, TX
- Memphis, TN
- Miami-Dade, FL
- Milwaukee, WI
- Minneapolis, MN
- Montgomery, AL
- Nashville, TN
- Newark, NJ
- New Orleans, LA
- New York, NY
- Norfolk, VA
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Omaha, NE
- Pharr-San Juan-Alamo, TX
- Philadelphia, PA
- Providence, RI
- Richmond, VA
- Rochester, NY
- Savannah-Chatham, GA
- St. Louis, MO
- St. Paul, MN
- Toledo, OH
- Tulsa, OK
- Ysleta, TX

1440 N Street, NW  
Suite 1016  
Washington, DC 20005

PHONE 202-462-5911  
FAX 202-986-4569

E-MAIL  
RebuildAmericasSchools@comcast.net

December 15, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama  
Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Project

Washington, D.C. 20270

Dear President-elect Obama:

### Modern Schools for the 21st Century: Economic Stimulus Policy Options

Rebuild America's Schools is a coalition of national education organizations, the PTA, architects and school districts working with local communities to finance, build and modernize school facilities to address the economic and educational challenges of the 21st Century. Rebuild America's Schools is excited be working with the incoming Obama Administration. We are eager to support your effort to provide **public school modernization as an essential part your national economic stimulus package.**

Rebuild America's Schools has prepared a briefing piece on federal school facility initiatives: *Modern Schools for the 21st Century: Economic Stimulus Policy Options* for your review as your team develops your economic stimulus program. In this piece we describe:

- School Facility Needs: Latest estimate \$254.6 billion.
- Potential Funding and Financing Mechanisms: Grants and Bonds for School Modernization through the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act and the America's Better Classrooms Act.
- Cost of School Modernization: \$14.1 billion to fund and finance more than \$30 billion in school modernization projects.
- Construction jobs generated: 300,000.

Public school modernization will help local communities provide modern, safe and energy efficient schools. Students in their modernized workplaces will better develop the educational skills necessary to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. Modern, safe and green schools will also benefit student and staff health and help advance the nation's goal for increasing energy efficiency. Modern school facilities are also an integral part of communities preparing students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy.

A school modernization program as part of your economic stimulus legislation will help states meet the school facility needs of local communities by providing resources to repair, renovate and modernize America's schools. Equally important, its enactment will stimulate the creation of thousands of new jobs in construction related services.



**Stimulus funding for public school modernization** can provide grants and tax credit bonds to states and local school districts for energy efficient modernization construction projects. The federal program will help states and communities stretch their limited resources to pay for school facility projects that can be started immediately generating 300,000 jobs in the construction industry.

School construction projects will generate thousands of jobs in the construction industry, and among the many suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to roofing contractors and other workers, who design and build our nation's schools.

School districts in every state have projects in the pipeline that can get underway quickly if federal financial resources are available to help underwrite the project costs. Funding for a public school modernization program will provide federal support for the renovation and repair of schools, while leaving decision making at the local level to start priority projects quickly. Green-energy saving technology can further reduce long-term costs.

Modern, more energy efficient and greener schools will improve the learning environment for students, and enhance the workplace for students and teachers. Thousands of jobs will be created in the construction industry. Most importantly a student's workplace in a safe, modern school will advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical national issue. Attached for your review is the briefing piece, *Modern Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Economic Stimulus Policy Options*.

Rebuild America's Schools looks forward to working with you and your Administration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Canavan  
Chair