



REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

A National Coalition

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

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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

January 2, 2009

President-elect Barack Obama
Obama Biden Presidential Transition Project
Washington, D.C. 20270

Dear President-elect Obama:

RE: Economic Stimulus School Modernization

Rebuild America's Schools is writing again to support funding and financing for public school modernization, renovation and repairs as part of an Obama Administration Economic Stimulus package. Modern school facilities are an integral part of raising student performance. Funding and financing of a public school renovation and repair program will help local communities provide the modern, safe schools needed to assist students in developing the educational skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century workforce. Modern schools will also benefit student and staff health while helping to improve energy efficiency.

The demands of today's educational programs and services are overwhelming the structural capacity of the average school in America built almost fifty years ago. Many urban and rural schools were built much earlier than the 1960's. Growing communities across our country cannot build schools fast enough to accommodate increasing student populations. Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology, all of which compromise their ability to achieve, succeed and develop the educational skills necessary for the workforce of the 21st century.

Economic stimulus funding and financing for public school modernization renovation and repair programs 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.

Public school modernization, renovation and repair federal grants will help states and communities stretch their limited resources to pay for school facility projects that can be started immediately generating hundreds of thousands of jobs in construction and related industries. School construction projects will generate 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 can get projects underway quickly if federal financial resources are available to help underwrite the project costs. Funding and financing for public school renovation and repair programs will provide federal support for the renovation and repair of schools, while leaving decision making at the local level ensuring that these projects can begin quickly.

Legislation considered in the 110th Congress such as the 21 Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act passed by the House of Representatives, the Senate Reid/Byrd Economic Recovery Act and the Rangel/Rockefeller America's Better Classrooms Act are clear examples of programs that will modernize schools and generate much needed construction jobs in every state. A stimulus program combining the appropriated grants of the 21st Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act and the Reid/Byrd Economic Recovery Act with the tax credit approach of the America's Better Classrooms Act would create two funding avenues for states and school districts to modernize schools in their communities. An advantage of the America's Better Classrooms Act is that full implementation of the \$25 billion tax credit bond program can be accomplished at a lower cost to the US Treasury of \$6.7 billion over ten years.

Rebuild America's Schools supports funding for a Public School Modernization Renovation and Repair program in an Obama economic stimulus package that you will develop in cooperation with Congress. Modern, more energy efficient and greener schools will improve the learning environment for students, and enhance the workplace for students, teachers and school administrators. Most importantly, modernized schools will advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state while generating much needed jobs in the construction and related industries.

We look forward to working with your incoming Administration, the House of Representatives and the Senate in efforts to modernize America's schools in the critically needed economic stimulus program.

Best wishes for 2009 and for the start of your new Administration.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Canavan