

Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities
Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair

Agenda
December 15, 2021
3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

II. Decisions on Calculation of State Funding for School Construction Projects

Rachel Hise, Lead Principal Policy Analyst, Department of Legislative Services

III. Decisions on Facilities Assessment

Rachel Hise, Lead Principal Policy Analyst, Department of Legislative Services

Michele Lambert, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Legislative Services

IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Calculation of State Funding for School Construction Projects

Draft Recommendations for Determining the Projected Enrollment of Proposed Projects

1. IAC should establish guidelines in regulation that limit the applicability of excess capacity in adjacent schools when evaluating projects for additional capacity
 - a. Excess capacity in adjacent schools may not be appropriate if it is scattered among multiple schools;
 - b. Excess capacity in an adjacent school should only be considered when it exceeds a specified threshold, e.g. 15% of the school's enrollment.
2. IAC should establish a process for appealing enrollment projections for individual projects to the full IAC
 - a. Currently, IAC staff determine a project's enrollment size based on information provided by the local school system; the school system has no avenue to appeal staff's determination.

Draft Recommendation for Determining Gross Area Baselines for Proposed Projects

3. Align sufficiency standards and square foot allowances with requirements of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, including incorporating square foot allowances for:
 - a. English-language learners;
 - b. Community schools/schools eligible for Concentration of Poverty grants;
 - c. Collaborative planning spaces for teachers (taking into consideration there will be more teachers in schools as additional collaborative time during the school day is phased in);
 - d. Break out space for more one-on-one and small group instruction; and
 - e. Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.

Decision Points Related to the School Facilities Assessment

1. The Priority Fund shall begin in FY 27, funded at \$80 million annually.
 - a. The Healthy School Facility Fund shall be extended until FY 26.
2. The IAC is not authorized to use the assessment data to determine any funding decisions until the IAC has created an integrated data system for the assessment data, including preventative maintenance schedules, where all details are accessible by local education agencies.
 - a. The IAC may use the assessment data to provide context in IAC programs, but not to determine any funding decisions within the programs, until May 1, 2026
 - b. The IAC also may use assessment data to:
 - i. Work with local education agencies;
 - ii. Fulfill legislative requests;
 - iii. Complete any internal analysis or reports; and
 - iv. Assist with an external reports.
3. It is the intent of the Workgroup that a new legislative workgroup be formed in July 2024 to determine the MDCI categories and weights to be used for the Priority Fund in FY 27.
 - a. The IAC may not use the IAC draft MDCI calculations to inform or determine any funding decisions.
4. The IAC shall publish in regulation how they plan to use assessment data, when authorized under the law, to determine funding decisions.
 - a. The Workgroup encourages the IAC to comply with State Government Article Title 10 when issuing any statements that have general effect on the operations or procedures of the IAC, including any guidelines, rules, statements or policy, or interpretation.
5. The IAC shall incorporate the attached sufficiency standards and process changes for future facility assessments, beginning with the 2022 facility assessments
6. The IAC shall submit certain documents through budget requests, including;
 - a. JCR on how workgroup concerns have been addressed for the 2022 assessment of schools (example: processes for LEA involvement, sufficiency standards, functionality of systems, etc.)
 - b. JCR data dictionary, including how FCI is calculated;
 - c. JCR for the submission of updated data sets to DLS at certain times; and
7. The IAC shall work with DLS on continued data verification.

Recommendation that there be a place during the assessment process for LEAs to report any additional information about a school and the schools attributes for the IAC and DLS to get a better picture of the school.

1. Temperature / Humidity / Co2 / Acoustics

Take the IAC recommendation that LEAs would report to the IAC in the assessment process any issues they have. IAC would have data loggers that would be used to measure these issues at schools.

LEAs should report these concerns for all schools in the annual data refresh – even if a school isn't visited. School could be assessed for these issues if the LEA notifies IAC of concerns.

2. Lead Paint / Asbestos

Take the IAC recommendation that:

LEAs should use their facilities records to identify which spaces are likely to be painted with lead paint and plan to fix; and

LEAs should certify that their AHERA plan exists and steps being taken in the plan.

3. Kitchen Sanitary Equipment

IAC shall work with MDH to develop minimum equipment needed in each school for food preparation and these minimum standards should be used by assessors in the next assessment.

4. Lighting

Take IAC recommendation for inspectors to test lighting during the next facilities assessment.

5. Emergency Communication System

LEAs should identify what emergency notification systems are in each school. The assessment should determine the remaining useful lifespan of the schools emergency communication system.

6. Health Room Attributes

Assessment should note the fixtures and attributes of the health room space.

7. Lab Spaces

Assessment should capture what safety fixtures are in each lab (ex: eye wash stations)

8. Potable Water

LEA should have the ability to note this in the assessment process.

9. IAC should determine a way to incorporate maintenance data in the assessment process.