

VIII.B.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Report on the Condition of Connecticut's Public School Facilities

In accordance with Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes, each school district is required to biennially report to the Department on the condition of its school buildings. The Bureau of School Facilities' most recent *Report on the Condition of Connecticut's Public School Facilities* reflects information provided by districts in 2009 and covers 1,036 school buildings. The report focuses on six facility areas:

- Appearance and Upkeep
- Service Systems
- Dedicated Specialty Areas
- Building Size and Capacity
- Long-Range Facility Planning and Maintenance
- Indoor Air Quality

Districts file facility information through an on-line system. While all of the data are self reported by the districts, Bureau of School Facilities' staff heavily scrutinizes the data for completeness and reasonability. The data review includes:

- verification that all active schools have been filed and closed facilities have been eliminated;
- data reasonability, i.e., comparison to prior data submissions and square footage analyses;
- data for buildings with poor ratings are reconfirmed with the district if School Facilities' staff confirms there are no active construction projects relating to such buildings; and
- does it make sense test, i.e., high schools without cafeterias, elementary schools without playgrounds, and elementary schools with guidance offices.

Once the data are compiled and complete, school districts are notified that the information has been posted on our Web site: <http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/dgm/ed050/pickyear.aspx>.

Indoor Air Quality

Based on the 2009 district responses, 46 schools reported poor ratings under indoor air quality (see attached listing). Included in those 46 schools are the following Connecticut Technical High Schools:

Bullard Havens (Bridgeport)
Ellis (Killingly)
Wilcox (Meriden)
Vinal (Middletown)

Wolcott (Torrington)
Windham Tech (Windham)
O'Brien (Ansonia)
Platt (Milford)

Ellis, Wilcox and O'Brien are all in the early stages of major renovations. The remaining five schools are in the design phase for their future renovations.

Technical High Schools with Poor Ratings in Other Categories

Appearance and Upkeep:
Service Systems:

Ellis, Whitney and O'Brien
Whitney and O'Brien

Note that Ellis, Whitney and O'Brien are all in the early stages of major renovations.

The importance of reporting on the condition of facilities and the dissemination of data on our Web site is to provide transparency to the local citizenry and all stakeholders in public elementary and secondary education. While the responsibility of the Bureau of School Facilities is to manage the school construction grant process, statute does not provide the Department a role regarding the enforcement of building maintenance. That role is left to each individual school district and municipality.

Prepared by _____
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