

House Proposal

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The pending House bill, under School Modernization, Renovation and Repair includes a section, 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities which:

Provides schools with access to funding for modernization, renovation and repair projects

- Provides \$14,000,000 for school modernization, renovation and repair projects, and ensures that school districts will quickly receive funds for projects that improve the teaching and learning climate, health and safety, and energy efficiency.
- Allocates the same percentage of funds to states and school districts that they receive under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, except that it guarantees each such district a minimum of \$5,000.
- Allowable projects may include health and safety repairs, facility modifications to provide access for disabled students, and educational technology infrastructure upgrades, as well as projects to improve energy efficiency.

Encourages energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources in schools

- Requires that at least 25 % of funds be used for projects that meet one of four widely recognized green building standards: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; Energy Star; Collaborative for High Performance Schools or Green Building Initiative – or equivalent state or local standards.
- Allows states to reserve one percent of funds to administer the program and to develop a plan to create a statewide database of schools' facilities, modernization and repair needs, energy uses, carbon footprints, and schools' energy efficiency quality plans.
- Requires school districts to publicly report the educational, energy and environmental benefits of projects, how they comply with the green building requirements, and the percentage of funds used for projects at low-income and rural schools.
- Requires the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to create a database of the best practices in school construction and to provide technical assistance to states and school districts regarding best practices.