



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

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December 3, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama
Obama Transition Office
Washington, D.C.

Dear President-elect Obama:

RE: Economic Stimulus - Public School Modernization

Rebuild America's Schools is excited be working with you and the incoming Obama Administration. We are eager to support your Administration as you begin to revive our nation's economy. Rebuild America's Schools is writing to support funding for **public school modernization in a national economic stimulus package**.

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 21st 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 raising student performance.

An economic stimulus public school modernization program 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.

Current Congressional legislation such as the 21 Century Green High-Performing Public Schools Act passed by the House of Representatives this year, the Senate Reid/Byrd Economic Recovery Act and the America's Better Classrooms Act are clear examples of programs to modernize schools and to generate much needed construction jobs in every state. A stimulus program combining the appropriated grants of the 21st Green High-Performing Public Schools 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. The 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 of \$ 6.7 billion over ten years.

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 thousands of 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.

Rebuild America's Schools requests your Administration to provide funding for public school infrastructure in the critically needed national economic stimulus package. Modern, more energy efficient and greener schools will improve the learning environment for students, and enhance the workplace for students, teachers and school administrators. 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 is background information on recent Congressional legislative action on school modernization initiatives. Rebuild America's Schools looks forward to working with you and your Administration.

Sincerely,

Robert Canavan
Chair
Rebuild America's Schools