

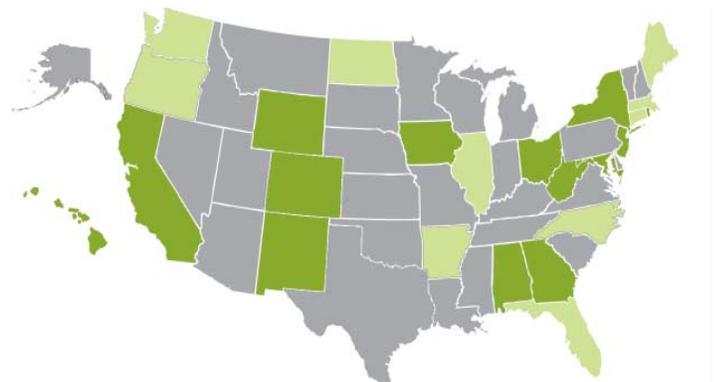
SUMMARY OF THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Twenty-two states participated in the third annual meeting of the National Council on School Facilities (NCSF) from December 6 through December 8, 2015 at the Thurgood Marshall Center in Washington, D.C. The 21st Century School Fund (21CSF), a nonprofit focused on improving our nation’s school facilities and the incubator of the Council, organized, staffed, and hosted the annual meeting for the Council. SchoolDude and the Education Facilities Clearinghouse sponsored the annual meeting.



Carl Thurnau, 2015 NCSF President and the New York Director of School Facilities

2015 National Council President Carl Thurnau welcomed the members, attending states, and guests. Thurnau highlighted the Council’s mission and highlighted the role of the Council in helping states learn about school-facilities policies and practices nationwide and to explore new trends and research related to states’ roles in K–12 facilities. President Thurnau also reviewed the history of the Council, which formed in 2012 with 10 member states after meeting informally since 2006.



2015 MEMBER STATES  PARTICIPATING STATES 

Members and Participating States

- Alabama • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Connecticut
- Florida • Georgia • Hawaii • Illinois • Iowa • Maine
- Maryland • Massachusetts • New Jersey • New Mexico
- New York • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oregon
- Rhode Island • Washington • West Virginia • Wyoming
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs • U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity

TOUR OF NEW & MODERNIZED SCHOOLS

The state officials toured the District of Columbia Public Schools’ Paul L. Dunbar High School and Francis L. Cardozo High School. Sean O’Donnell of Perkins Eastman Architects led the tour of Dunbar HS and discussed how the \$140-million facility was built to LEED Platinum standards and replaced a 1970s Brutalist open-space facility. Gail Douglass of Hartman Cox Architects and Paul Bradshaw of Grimm + Parker Architects led the tour of Cardozo HS and discussed how the 330,000-GSF 1916 school was renovated to LEED Silver standards at a cost of \$130 million. After the tour, the attendees networked over lunch at the Old Ebbitt Grill.

National Council on School Facilities MISSION

...to support states in their varied roles and responsibilities for the delivery of safe, healthy, and educationally appropriate public school facilities that are sustainable and fiscally sound.

2015 STATES REPORT OUT

Each attending state official introduced their state school-facilities organization and reported on the top two school-facilities issues that their state is currently facing. The state officials valued having this time to learn about how other states are grappling with school-facilities issues, some of which are common to many states, and others that are state-specific. Most of the participating states reported having difficulty fully funding capital investment and maintenance of facilities. North Dakota, in contrast, reported increasing state-level funds for capital and maintenance due to high levels of oil, coal, and gas revenues since 2008. However, North Dakota acknowledged that disparities in facilities investments across school districts persist because some districts have been unable to convince local voters to pass bonds for capital investments in schools.

The major themes discussed at the annual meeting included the politics associated with education funding; the impacts of rising construction costs; the importance of maintenance standards in driving good stewardship of facilities; how to build the public will for investing in school facilities; how to ensure equity in the delivery of appropriate school environments to all children; how to arrive at standards for the expected lifespan of facilities; and how to improve states' facilities-data systems.



State School Facilities Officials from Illinois, New Mexico, New York, Georgia, and Iowa.

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF K-12 FACILITIES FUNDING

The National Council on School Facilities, the 21st Century School Fund, and the Center for Green Schools are partnering on a "State of our Schools" report to be released in March 2016 that will highlight the \$46 billion gap between historic spending and building industry and best practices standards for capital construction and maintenance and operations. Mary Filardo, 21st Century School Fund Executive Director and principal author of the report, highlighted state profiles and data to be included in the report and sought input of member states.

A panel consisting of representatives from Colorado, Florida, Maryland, and West Virginia led a discussion of media strategies around the forthcoming report on capital and maintenance spending by the nation's states and school districts between 1994 and 2013.

Jeff Vincent, Deputy Director of the Center for Cities+Schools at the University of California, Berkeley, presented an analysis of expenditures on capital renewals and maintenance by school districts in California based on the same data used in the analysis that produced the joint national report. His analysis concluded that districts in California underspend on facilities; wealthy districts spend more on facilities, especially on the capital side; and districts serving low-income students disproportionately spend more per student on M&O from their operating budgets to fund facilities.

VISIONING FOR 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

Melanie Drerup, Planning Manager for the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, presented on 21st-Century Schools: Educational Visioning and Transformation in Ohio. Ohio has been on the forefront of determining how to design a "21st century space" and how it can support delivery of the educational program. She also shared a brief history of the Commission and Ohio's school-facilities planning process,

which includes physical building assessments, enrollment projections, the creation of master facility plans, and a school-design manual. Ohio's process prioritizes environmental sustainability and modern learning-environment design. The Commission conducts 3-day educational visioning and transformation workshops with Ohio districts and has created a website devoted to their 21st-Century Schools design and visioning process.



BEST PRACTICES IN FACILITIES PLANNING

The National Council has partnered with the Education Facilities Clearinghouse and the 21st Century School Fund to create a series of training videos on best practices in K–12 school-facilities planning for local school districts. At the annual meeting, the state officials were shown highlights of the completed videos, which include An Overview of School Facilities Planning; The Educational Facilities Master Plan; The K-12 Safety & Emergency Operations Plan; The Maintenance Plan; and Education Specifications. The discussion covered topics including the importance of planning, setting standards, and developing state-level capacity to train local school districts in facilities planning.

COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND USE OF SCHOOL-FACILITIES DATA

Bob Gorrell, Director of the New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority, led a discussion on strategies for supporting states in improving the collection, management, and use of facilities data.

The state officials discussed and adopted a draft framework for facilities data, including definitions of key facilities data elements. The Council's goal is to assist states in adopting data definitions and frameworks that facilitate long-term planning and management of K–12 facilities and increased comparability of facilities data between districts and between states.

NATIONAL COUNCIL BOARD ELECTIONS 2016

At the end of the meeting, Mike Rowland, Director of Facilities Services for the Georgia Department of Education, took office as the 2016 President of the National Council. The members elected Joseph da Silva, School Construction Coordinator for the Rhode Island Department of Elementary Education, as 2017 President and Mike Pickens, Executive Director of School Facilities for the West Virginia Department of Education, as 2016–2018 Treasurer. The members also elected Gary Schwartz, School Facilities Consultant for the Iowa Department of Education, as Midwest Region Representative and Bernard Piaia, Director of Facilities for the New Jersey Department of Education, as Northeast Region Representative.



Barbara Hansberry, Deputy Director, Massachusetts School Building Authority; David Lever, Executive Director, Maryland Public School Construction Program

SETTING NATIONAL COUNCIL'S GOALS FOR 2016

The NCSF Board of Directors met following the annual meeting and updated the Council's strategic plan to reflect the following priorities for 2016:

1. Retention of member states;
2. Expansion of the membership of the National Council to include more states;
3. Exploration of expanding membership to include additional stakeholders such as local school districts;
4. Development of additional best-practice tools for state officials and local districts;
5. Expansion of the National Council's website as an information center for state officials through the development of an online database and library;
6. Development of a common fact base for decision making about school-facilities funding at the local, state, and federal levels; and
7. Advocacy for adequate funding of capital renewal and maintenance of K–12 facilities nationwide.



Mike Rowland, Director of Facilities Services, Georgia Department of Education; Gordon Beck, Director of Facilities, Washington State Office of Supt. of Public Instruction; Barbara Hansberry, Director of Strategic Planning, Massachusetts School Building Authority; Ann Pinnette, Facilities and Transportation Coordinator, Maine Department of Education

HOLD THE DATES FOR 2016!

**The 4th annual meeting of the
National Council on School Facilities
will be in Washington, D.C.,
December 5-6, 2016.**



www.FacilitiesCouncil.org