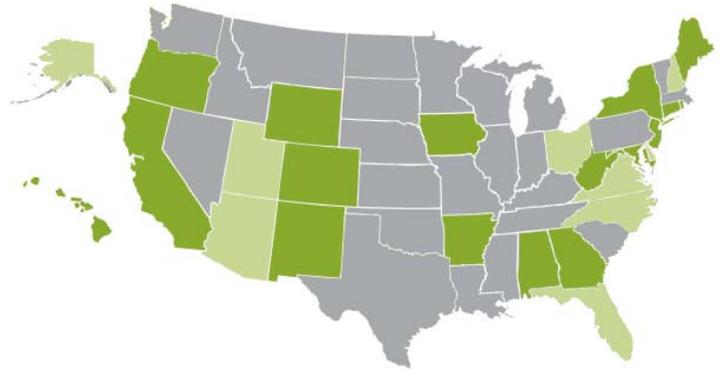


## SUMMARY OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Twenty-five states participated in the fourth annual meeting of the National Council on School Facilities (NCSF) on December 5 and 6, 2016 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. SchoolDude and Cooperative Strategies, LLC sponsored the annual meeting.



|   |                                      |                      |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 2016 Member States  | <span style="color: green;">■</span> | Participating States | <span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> |
| <b>Members and Participating States</b>   |                                      |                      |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas • California</li> <li>• Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • Florida • Georgia</li> <li>• Hawaii • Iowa • Maine • Maryland • New Hampshire</li> <li>• New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • North Carolina</li> <li>• Ohio • Oregon • Rhode Island • Utah • Virginia</li> <li>• West Virginia • Wyoming</li> </ul> |                                      |                      |   |

2016 National Council President Mike Rowland, Asst. Director of Facilities in the Georgia Dept. of Education, welcomed the members and guests. Rowland highlighted the role of the Council in helping states obtain information about school-facilities policies and practices nationwide and develop solutions to pressing challenges facing the states. Executive Director Kathleen Moore provided a history of the Council, which formed in 2012 with ten member states after meeting informally since 2006.



**Back Row** (L to R): David Lever (MD)(Retired), Amy Clark (NH), Ken Phelps (NC), Rosanne Groff (NY), Michael Elliott (OR), Joe da Silva (RI), Tim Mearig (AK), Paul Bakalis (AZ), Bernie Piaia (NJ), Perry Taylor (AL), Scott Brown (ME), Brad Montgomery (AR), A.K. “Vijay” Ramnarain (VA). **Front Row:** Bob Gorrell (NM), Terry Granderson (AR), Juan Mireles (CA), Barbara Bice (MD), Violet Brown (FL), Mike Rowland (GA), Mike Pickens (WV), Melanie Drerup (OH), Susan Kutner (NJ), Kosta Diamantis (CT), Gary Schwartz (IA), Del McOmie (WY), Jenefer Youngfield (UT). Not pictured: Jim Owens (CO).

*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.*

## 2016 STATE REPORTS

Each attending state official introduced their state school-facilities organization and reported on the top two school-facilities issues the state is currently facing. The state officials valued having this time to learn about how other states are grappling with common and state-specific school-facilities issues.

The states' reports made clear the great variation across the country in how states approach PK–12 facilities. Some states have little to no state-level staff focused on PK–12 facilities. In others, state-level PK–12 facilities responsibilities are carried out by an office within the state's education department, within a separate stand-alone agency, or some combination of agencies. Ohio and Wyoming recently folded their PK–12 facilities agencies into the agencies responsible for other types of state facilities. Rhode Island, in contrast, created a new facilities authority within its education department.

States reported varied levels of funding for PK–12 facilities at the state and local levels. States that have historically used mineral and energy revenues to fund PK–12 facilities have seen their capacity to fund capital spending dwindling as mineral and energy prices have fallen. In California—for the first time in a decade—voters approved a new sale of state bonds to pay for capital investments in PK–12 facilities. Iowa in contrast has seen steady capital funding from a statewide sales tax dedicated to PK–12 facilities. In other states, state budget cuts have left local communities almost fully responsible for the cost of building, maintaining, and replacing their PK–12 facilities.

The collection, management, and use of facilities data and information was a topic of interest for almost all states, as officials work to better understand facilities conditions and district practices, prioritize needs, and maximize the benefits from available state dollars. Some states without facilities data systems are working to create them, while others are streamlining complex systems.

## DIRECTORS SHARE PRACTICES

The state facilities directors devoted a working session to each of the six key functional areas of facilities responsibilities: data and information; planning; governance and decision making; management; funding; and accountability. State directors from 14 states each described the current practices of their states in a content area. The presentations gave the group a view into how different states approach tasks and challenges common to all of them, with opportunities for questions and discussion after each presentation.



Gary Schwartz, Iowa Department of Education, presents on Iowa's approach to accountability for PK-12 infrastructure.

## STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS 2016

In March 2016, the National Council, the 21st Century School Fund, and the U.S. Green Building Council released the *State of Our Schools: America's K–12 Facilities 2016* report, which identified a \$46 billion gap between what the U.S. has been spending annually on capital investment and maintenance and operations of its public PK–12 buildings and grounds (\$99 billion per year) and what the U.S. needs to spend in order to properly maintain its current PK–12 facilities inventory (\$145 billion per year).

The findings of the report prompted the National Council on School Facilities to team up in June 2016 with the Center for Cities + Schools (CC+S) at U.C. Berkeley to help lead the Planning for PK–12 Infrastructure initiative. This initiative is working to develop solutions that will help the nation deliver adequate and equitable school facilities for all public-school children in the United States.

In the first phase of the initiative, the National Council and its partners convened leaders and innovators from the civic, governmental, building industry, public finance, labor, and university sectors into six cross-sector working groups. During the fall, six working groups were organized around the key functional areas of facilities responsibilities: data and information; planning; governance and decision making; management; funding; and accountability. Through conference calls and written document reviews, they identified the challenges facing PK–12 facilities and potential solutions to address them. Eight state directors participated in one or more of the six working groups.

### DIRECTORS EVALUATE PROPOSALS

After the states’ presentations, Mary Filardo (21CSF) and Jeff Vincent (CC+S) presented the problem analyses for each of the six functional areas that the initiative’s Working Groups had developed. Working together in small groups, the state directors evaluated the proposed actions from the perspective of the states. The state directors rated each of the national, federal, and state proposed actions as to its potential to affect the condition of PK–12 facilities, the equity of access to adequate PK–12 facilities, and the affordability of PK–12 facilities. In addition, the directors rated each solution as to its likely level of ease of implementation.



During a break, Jim Owens of Colorado and Ken Phelps of North Carolina discuss their state’s school facilities policies and practices.

### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

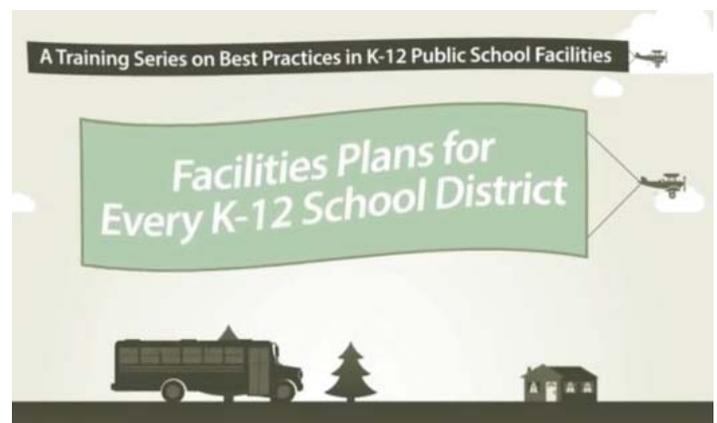
Following presentations and discussions of proposed actions for facilities data and information, planning, management, funding, governance, and accountability, the National Council members adopted a resolution stating the position of the Council on each topic.

At the forefront was a resolution calling for PK–12 facilities to be included in any federal programs designed to address infrastructure needs. With an estimated current replacement value of \$2 trillion, the U.S. PK–12 facilities inventory is a major part of the nation’s public infrastructure.

A second resolution advocates for adequate and stable levels of funding that meet national standards for capital renewal and for maintenance and operations of public PK–12 facilities. Other resolutions call for action at the local, state, and national levels to improve facilities-management policies and practices including facilities data and information, planning, and accountability.

### BEST FACILITIES PRACTICES

The National Council announced the completion of its series of seven videos on local school district best practices in PK–12 school-facilities planning. Created in partnership with the Education Facilities Clearinghouse and the 21st Century School Fund, the first video in the series is an introduction to the five main planning documents that every school district should maintain and use. The series continues with videos on educational facilities master plans, PK-12 safety & emergency operations plans, maintenance plans, energy- and environmental-management plans, and educational specifications—also known as “ed specs.” The videos and examples of these different types of district plans are available on the website of the Education Facilities Clearinghouse.



## 2017 BOARD ELECTIONS

On Day Two of the Meeting, 2016 President Mike Rowland turned over the presidency of the National Council for 2017 to the 2016 President-Elect, Joseph da Silva, Ph.D., AIA, Director of the Rhode Island School Building Authority. Council membership elected Kosta Diamantis, Director of Connecticut's Office of School Construction Grants and Review, as President-Elect for 2017. Michael Elliott, State School Fund Coordinator in the Oregon Department of Education, succeeded Bob Gorrell, Director of the New Mexico School Facilities Authority, as Western Region Representative on the Board of Directors.

## NATIONAL SUMMIT TO MAP EQUITY INTO PK-12 INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the two-day Annual Meeting, nine state directors participated in the National Summit to Map Equity into PK-12 Infrastructure to represent the perspective of state departments of education and independent facilities authorities on PK-12 facilities issues. In the Summit, participants from the civic, governmental, building industry, public finance, labor, and university sectors evaluated the potential improvements and solutions generated by the initiative's working groups. The participants also identified the improvements that appear most worthy of feasibility analyses due to their potential impact. In the final session, participants expressed their views on how to best conduct the needed analysis, communicate with stakeholders and decision makers, and advocate for action.

## NCSF STRATEGIC PLAN

The membership of the National Council unanimously approved a 2017–2019 Strategic Plan focused on knowledge building and advocacy. In the area of knowledge building, the Council plans to continue to research and analyze policies and practices at the local, state, and federal levels in order to identify best or model policies and practices and to further develop and refine. The Council will disseminate the information through various networks and media. In the area of advocacy, the Council plans to provide information on PK-12 facilities issues to decision makers at the federal, state, and local levels through reports, policy papers, facilitated conversations, newsletters, and other information campaigns.



Juan Mireles, Calif. Dept. of Education, and Shirl Buss, Center for Cities + Schools, discuss potential solutions to improving PK-12 facilities planning at the National Summit.

**HOLD THE DATES FOR 2017!**

**The 5th annual meeting of the  
National Council on School Facilities  
will be in Washington, D.C.,  
December 4-5, 2017.**

