



Strengthening Wyoming Schools and Our Communities

WYOMING SCHOOL FACILITIES PROGRAM
1998–2016



W Y O M I N G
S | F | D
SCHOOL FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

FALL 2015

INTRODUCTION

Why are school facilities so important?

HIGH-QUALITY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING.

Research has repeatedly shown that good facilities support and strengthen learning, while poor facilities have a negative effect on student and teacher performance, health, and safety.

SCHOOLS ARE A COMMUNITY ASSET.

Schools belong to our communities. They are not simply where we educate our children, but also where community groups and members can meet, vote, shelter in case of emergency, and host programs and events that support our communities.

Why are state and local communities working together?

TAKING CARE OF SCHOOLS IS COMPLEX AND CRITICAL.

The state is legally required to provide adequate school facilities for our children. However, the complex nature of facilities management—covering everything from planning, design, and construction through upkeep and repairs—means that the best results come from collaboration and cooperation between state and local leaders.

WHAT ARE ADEQUATE SCHOOL FACILITIES?

In Wyoming adequate school facilities are defined as buildings and grounds that:

1. Need only routine maintenance to be in good condition.
2. Have enough school building capacity to serve their enrollment.
3. Are suitable for meeting the Wyoming Department of Education content and performance standards.

CONDITION

What is the current state of the school building and grounds, including building systems, components, finishes, furniture, fixtures, and equipment; as well as site amenities, like sidewalks, fences, lighting, paving, play yards and athletic fields?



CAPACITY

Is the school able to serve students in classes at the state-mandated student-teacher ratio and still have the space for other programs and services?



REMEDY FOR SUITABILITY

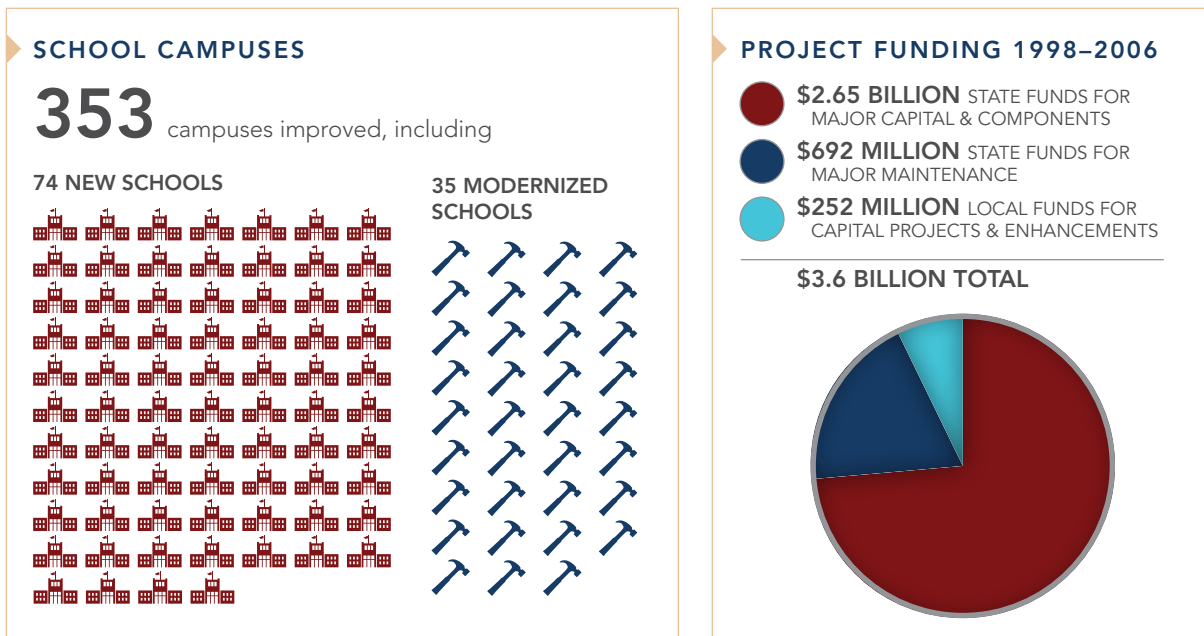
Is the school designed and equipped so teachers and staff can deliver the curriculum, programs, and services that students need to succeed in school?



How much progress has Wyoming made so far?

With 48 school districts serving more than 93,000 students, Wyoming continues to invest in upgrading and improving school districts' facilities. Since 1998, state and local efforts have focused on eliminating a large backlog of deferred maintenance and in bringing facilities up to 21st century standards for teaching, learning, technology, health and safety.

The Wyoming Legislature has appropriated more than \$2.6 billion of state funds for major capital projects, including for building new schools and fully modernizing others. Local districts contributed another \$276 million for enhancements and locally funded capital projects. For fiscal years 1998 through 2016, the Legislature also appropriated \$692 million in state funding for major maintenance improvements. In total, over \$3.6 billion of state and local funds have been appropriated for K-12 public school facilities improvements.



TIMELINE

Working Toward Equal Educational Opportunities in Wyoming

Ensuring that there is a statewide system supporting equal educational opportunities has taken time and the joint efforts of citizens, school districts, and the State. Below is a timeline with the major legal and policy events that are the foundation for our current K–12 facilities program.



Photo Courtesy of the Wyoming State Archives



1889

WYOMING CONSTITUTION

The people of Wyoming approved the Constitution of the State of Wyoming, which outlines the rights of the people and the responsibilities of the State.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Your children have the fundamental right to a free public education in Wyoming that is provided by the State.



1995

CAMPBELL CO. V. STATE I

The Wyoming Supreme Court ruled that the State's school finance system was failing to provide equal and adequate educational opportunities.

1980

WASHAKIE CO. V. HERSCHLER

State system of financing public education must not be a function of wealth other than wealth of state as a whole and statewide availability from total state resources for building construction or contributions to school buildings on a parity for all school districts is required.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

The children in Wyoming have a right to equal educational opportunities wherever they reside.



2001

CAMPBELL CO. V. STATE II/III

The Court directed the State to fund "safe and efficient" school facilities and reiterated prior rulings requiring equal funding regardless of location from statewide revenue rather than from local school district revenues.

2002

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Legislature enacted legislation establishing the School Facilities Commission to set policies for K-12 facilities and to equitably allocate State funding for major capital projects and major maintenance.

1997

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Legislature responded to the Campbell I decision by redesigning the state's system for financing public schools and school facilities. schools' needs.

2008

CAMPBELL IV

The Court ruled that the revised school finance and capital construction systems were constitutional and released the state from court jurisdiction.

1998

COMBINED SPECIAL AND BUDGET LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Legislature continues school finance reforms and directs a portion of Coal Lease Bonus revenues to pay for major capital projects and major maintenance of school facilities for K-12 public school districts.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

The Legislature dedicated a significant funding source to pay for school facilities improvements to address the condition, capacity, and suitability needs of districts.

2011

SENATE ENROLLED ACT 7

The Legislature replaces the School Facilities Office with the School Facilities Department to accelerate the progress of local school districts improving their facilities.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

The State has made great strides toward equal educational opportunities and quality school buildings for Wyoming.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

Local School Districts operate and maintain facilities, collaborate with the SFD and their communities to create Facility Plans, manage projects from start to finish, and fund project enhancements with local dollars.

Wyoming Department of Education is the state agency responsible for setting state-level education standards and adequately funding facilities operations and maintenance as part of the overall education block grant to school districts.

School Facilities Department (SFD) supports school districts by managing a facilities information system, helping them create Facility Plans, reviewing and approving major and minor capital projects, and distributing state funds for approved facilities projects.

School Facilities Commission (SFC) establishes the policies and processes for measuring facilities conditions and ensuring that school facilities are adequate, as well as for how school districts plan their facilities.

Select Committee on School Facilities is the legislative committee that oversees the SFC and SFD, approves the spending of state funds on school facilities projects, and makes recommendations to the Legislature on funding school facilities in Wyoming.

Wyoming Legislature appropriates the state funds required to support education programs and facilities in Wyoming and ensures that the state is meeting its constitutional responsibilities with regard to education.

Governor of Wyoming proposes the School Facilities Department budget and—along with the Wyoming Legislature—must approve the budget bill before funds are appropriated and can be spent.



PROGRAMS

Facilities Assessment

The SFD is charged with maintaining data on school facilities and regularly assessing the facilities. The SFC uses these assessments to prioritize school projects so that schools with the greatest need are improved first.

Facilities Planning

The school districts work with their communities and trustees to identify facilities' needs, prioritize them, and propose remedies to address condition and capacity issues. The plans are multi-year and remedies may include non-facility options such as changing grade configurations to create more capacity. SFD coordinates plans for major maintenance, but major capital and component projects in the plans also go to the School Facilities Commission and the Select Committee on School Facilities for approval.

Major Maintenance Funding

Major maintenance funding is for the repair or replacement of complete or major portions of a building in order to use the building at its original capacity and intended use. Funding for major maintenance, which goes directly to school districts, is determined by a formula based on square footage, current building replacement value, and a projected 50-year lifespan for school facilities.

EXAMPLES:



Minor Capital (Component) Funding

Currently, districts receive major maintenance funds to cover some of their responsibilities for renewal of components such as roofs, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, windows, and electrical and plumbing systems. The minor capital program provides additional funds for larger, more expensive major maintenance projects. Funding for minor capital projects comes out of the state's budget for major capital projects.

Major Capital Funding

Major capital funding is for school replacement, renovation, or new construction. These projects improve the condition, function, capacity, and sometimes even the location of a school. Funding is competitive and prioritized to schools that demonstrate the most need according to their facility assessments and their capacity ratings.

EXAMPLES:



MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

\$38,768

WYOMING CAPITAL FUNDS
PER STUDENT
1998-2016

\$3,617,193,724

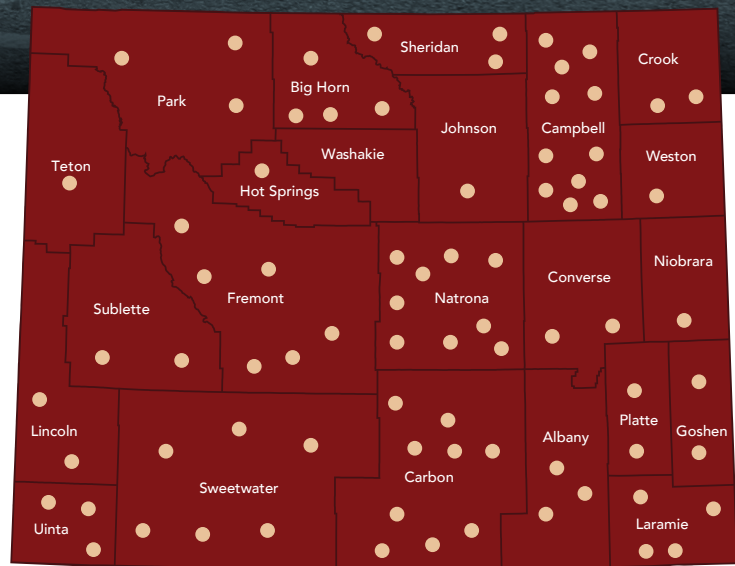
STATE AND LOCAL CAPITAL FACILITIES
FUNDS 1998-2016

93,303 WYOMING K-12
ENROLLMENT 2014-15

Wyoming Capital Facilities Funding by School District 1998–2016

School District (City)	Enrollment 2014-15	STATE FUNDS		LOCAL FUNDS	TOTAL	
		Major Capital ¹	Major Maintenance ²	Local Capital Funds ³	Total Capital Funds	Total Capital Funds per Student
Albany #1 (Laramie)	3,834	\$85,938,226	\$27,659,688	\$25,699,128	\$139,297,043	\$36,332
Big Horn #1 (Cowley)	988	\$35,700,680	\$7,663,324	\$859,601	\$44,223,605	\$44,761
Big Horn #2 (Lovell)	695	\$15,995,007	\$6,977,614	-	\$22,972,621	\$33,054
Big Horn #3 (Greybull)	539	\$18,024,352	\$5,350,667	\$126,000	\$23,501,019	\$43,601
Big Horn #4 (Basin)	304	\$33,041,538	\$4,555,223	\$81,054	\$37,677,815	\$123,940
Campbell #1 (Gillette)	9,134	\$175,659,482	\$58,438,885	\$5,386,180	\$239,484,547	\$26,219
Carbon #1 (Rawlins)	1,832	\$86,244,943	\$17,044,013	\$26,500,000	\$129,788,956	\$70,846
Carbon #2 (Saratoga)	624	\$22,424,289	\$9,526,478	\$106,050	\$32,056,817	\$51,373
Converse #1 (Douglas)	1,795	\$16,231,588	\$14,025,254	\$1,222,225	\$31,479,067	\$17,537
Converse #2 (Glenrock)	665	\$15,945,844	\$7,644,505	\$1,500,000	\$25,090,349	\$37,730
Crook #1 (Sundance)	1,135	\$52,571,709	\$12,461,052	\$1,644,145	\$66,676,906	\$58,746
Fremont #1 (Lander)	1,700	\$75,426,857	\$14,743,572	\$7,439,927	\$97,610,356	\$57,418
Fremont #2 (Dubois)	150	\$18,054,375	\$3,129,942	\$797,677	\$21,981,994	\$146,547
Fremont #6 (Pavillion)	359	\$12,904,301	\$4,247,559	\$3,375,766	\$20,527,626	\$57,180
Fremont #14 (Ethete)	610	\$20,413,736	\$6,286,013	\$9,288,677	\$35,988,426	\$58,997
Fremont #21 (Ft. Washakie)	460	\$62,354,014	\$3,650,394	\$11,062,751	\$77,067,160	\$167,537
Fremont #24 (Shoshoni)	383	\$50,905,202	\$4,697,911	\$2,041,042	\$57,644,155	\$150,507
Fremont #25 (Riverton)	2,563	\$53,258,751	\$16,396,608	\$5,626,689	\$75,282,048	\$29,373
Fremont #38 (Arapahoe)	446	\$20,539,613	\$2,491,239	\$1,387,734	\$24,418,586	\$54,750
Goshen #1 (Torrington)	1,713	\$48,411,874	\$16,726,021	\$1,706,014	\$66,843,909	\$39,022
Hot Springs #1 (Thermopolis)	617	\$22,738,616	\$7,406,394	\$3,690,047	\$33,835,058	\$54,838
Johnson #1 (Buffalo)	1,284	\$77,346,195	\$10,359,201	\$10,192,237	\$97,897,633	\$76,244
Laramie #1 (Cheyenne)	13,761	\$293,058,622	\$75,403,442	\$29,356,900	\$397,818,964	\$28,909
Laramie #2 (Pine Bluffs)	987	\$31,705,573	\$9,679,349	\$127,388	\$41,512,310	\$42,059
Lincoln #1 (Kemmerer)	634	\$30,910,579	\$7,583,299	\$5,121,231	\$43,615,108	\$68,794

Wyoming School Facilities Construction Projects – March 2015



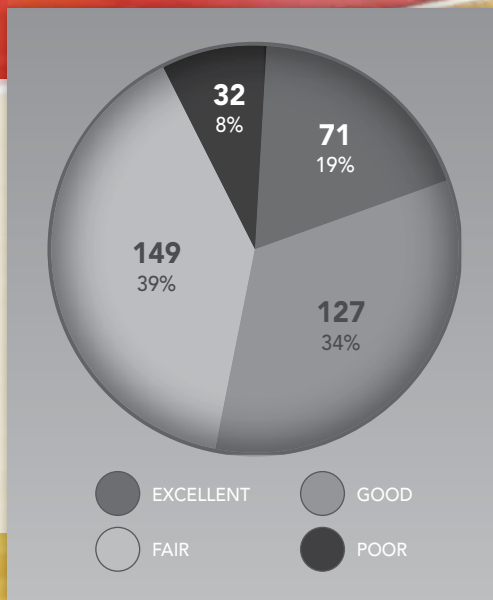
School District (City)	Enrollment 2014-15	STATE FUNDS		LOCAL FUNDS	TOTAL	
		Major Capital ¹	Major Maintenance ²	Local Capital Funds ³	Total Capital Funds	Total Capital Funds per Student
Lincoln #2 (Afton)	2,681	\$51,413,570	\$20,298,043	\$5,241,804	\$76,953,417	\$28,703
Natrona #1 (Casper)	13,059	\$486,153,003	\$79,327,203	\$2,935,207	\$568,415,413	\$43,527
Niobrara #1 (Lusk)	978	\$837,276	\$5,334,228	\$1,105,810	\$7,277,314	\$7,441
Park #1 (Powell)	1,761	\$77,769,431	\$12,264,639	\$4,898,697	\$94,932,767	\$53,908
Park #6 (Cody)	2,105	\$39,478,877	\$15,160,267	\$1,389,812	\$56,028,956	\$26,617
Park #16 (Meeteetse)	109	\$10,254,009	\$3,456,084	-	\$13,710,093	\$125,781
Platte #1 (Wheatland)	1,003	\$6,193,037	\$11,819,025	\$6,800,845	\$24,812,907	\$24,739
Platte #2 (Guernsey)	228	\$3,181,545	\$2,808,003	\$61,500	\$6,051,048	\$26,540
Sheridan #1 (Ranchester)	980	\$75,253,143	\$6,557,452	\$665,886	\$82,476,481	\$84,160
Sheridan #2 (Sheridan)	3,390	\$83,762,876	\$21,985,871	\$1,951,000	\$107,699,747	\$31,770
Sheridan #3 (Clearmont)	84	\$4,492,429	\$1,617,014	-	\$6,109,444	\$72,731
Sublette #1 (Pinedale)	1,035	\$21,266,569	\$7,472,540	\$30,706,074	\$59,445,183	\$57,435
Sublette #9 (Big Piney)	627	\$25,954,609	\$7,738,598	\$3,778,727	\$37,471,934	\$59,764
Sweetwater #1 (Rock Springs)	5,719	\$112,566,493	\$36,798,587	\$5,351,989	\$154,717,069	\$27,053
Sweetwater #2 (Green River)	2,726	\$30,550,704	\$23,343,490	\$15,060,253	\$68,954,447	\$25,295
Teton #1 (Jackson)	2,691	\$35,611,091	\$17,041,637	\$19,627,024	\$72,279,752	\$26,860
Uinta #1 (Evanston)	2,911	\$42,442,913	\$23,830,321	-	\$66,273,234	\$22,766
Uinta #4 (Mt. View)	791	\$31,473,673	\$7,867,925	\$1,322,434	\$40,664,033	\$51,408
Uinta #6 (Lyman)	721	\$15,312,918	\$7,614,722	\$3,949,401	\$26,877,041	\$37,277
Washakie #1 (Worland)	1,353	\$31,361,324	\$11,862,580	\$11,706,289	\$54,930,192	\$40,599
Washakie #2 (Ten Sleep)	91	\$398,221	\$1,754,999	\$512,500	\$2,665,720	\$29,294
Weston #1 (Newcastle)	784	\$30,309,276	\$8,547,584	\$3,702,892	\$42,559,752	\$54,285
Weston #7 (Upton)	264	\$10,365,575	\$3,681,372	\$1,229,029	\$15,275,976	\$57,864
Statewide projects	-	\$46,319,726	-	-	\$46,319,726	-
Wyoming Total/Average	93,303	\$2,648,528,254	\$692,329,835	\$276,335,635	\$3,617,193,724	\$38,768

(3) Best data available, from bond schedules reported by districts to WDE and SFD



How much more is to be done?

There are still 32 schools in poor condition that need major capital projects to make them adequate. Our facilities in fair condition will need increases in major maintenance and component funding to ensure that they can be improved. All facilities—even those in good and excellent condition—need regular upkeep, repairs, and renewal of major systems, components, finishes, furniture, equipment, and fixtures.



The Future of Wyoming's School Facilities

WHAT'S NEXT FOR WYOMING SCHOOLS?

SFD is looking to the future. The Department is planning to change its focus from the major capital projects that tackled decades of delayed maintenance and out-of-date facilities to a facilities program that supports the preservation of our capital investments. The Department anticipates an expansion of our Major Maintenance and Component remedies as we complete historic investments in K-12 public school facilities new construction and modernization. The enhanced Major Maintenance and Component programs will provide predictable funding and be backed by a state and local partnership for the facilities funding that is required to deliver adequate and equitable school facilities for the children of Wyoming.

EDUCATE YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY!

Learn more about the school facilities in your districts by visiting the School Facilities Department at sfd.wyo.gov.



PHOTO CREDITS: All photos courtesy of the Wyoming School Facilities Department and the 21st Century School Fund except for photo (right), page 3 courtesy of Dale Buckingham Architects, LLC.



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