

**K-12 Pilot Facility
Inventory,
Condition & Use
System: Progress
Report
Report 09-5**

January 7, 2009



STATE OF WASHINGTON
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND
REVIEW COMMITTEE

STUDY TEAM
Nina Oman, Ph.D.
Joy Adams

PROJECT SUPERVISOR
Keenan Konopaski

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
Ruta Fanning

Copies of Final Reports and Digests
are available on the JLARC website at:

www.jlarc.leg.wa.gov

or contact

Joint Legislative Audit & Review
Committee
1300 Quince St SE
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786-5171
(360) 786-5180 FAX

REPORT SUMMARY

Study Mandate

In the 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2765, Sec. 1001), the Legislature directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to summarize K-12 facilities data collected in Washington and other states, and to define and develop a pilot system for K-12 public school facilities in Washington. The Legislature intended that the system, once developed, be housed in and operated by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for school districts, and directed JLARC to select up to ten public school districts to participate in the pilot.

The Legislature divided JLARC's assignment into two phases. This report summarizes Phase I of the project and includes an implementation plan for the pilot. A report on Phase II, the results of the pilot, is due to the Legislature in January 2010.

There is No Statewide Source of K-12 Facilities Data

During Phase I of the pilot, JLARC staff learned:

- Currently there are no statewide data available for K-12 school buildings. Information is lacking in three broad categories:
 - 1) Inventory: How many school buildings are there, how much did they cost to build, and how old are they? How many portables are being used?
 - 2) Condition: What is the physical condition of school buildings?
 - 3) Use of Space: How is classroom space being used? Is there enough space to offer all-day kindergarten? How many science laboratories are available? Does the space function appropriately for the subject being taught?
- OSPI and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) collect limited information about K-12 facilities. Neither source provides information to the extent required for JLARC's assignment.
- School districts collect information about their own facilities; however, this information is not standardized or reported to the state. Larger districts tend to collect more data than smaller districts.

Several Other States Collect K-12 Facilities Data

In a survey of other states, JLARC staff found that:

- Several other states collect K-12 facility information, although no state collects all of the information required for the pilot project.
- States with K-12 capital funding structures similar to Washington collect more data on K-12 facilities than states that use different capital funding structures.

Implementation Plan for the Pilot

The JLARC pilot will include the following ten districts:

- Bridgeport (Douglas County)
- Evergreen (Clark County)
- Keller (Ferry County)
- Lopez Island (San Juan County)
- Marysville (Snohomish County)
- Meridian (Whatcom County)
- Oakesdale (Whitman County)
- Pullman (Whitman County)
- Spokane (Spokane County)
- Tumwater (Thurston County)

The pilot will begin January 15, 2009, and end May 15, 2009. During that timeframe, the districts will be asked to collect a variety of data elements on site and building inventory, condition, and use. As part of the pilot, the districts will use a new building condition evaluation form developed by JLARC with input from consultants and stakeholders. The districts will report the data to JLARC using an on-line form accessed through the Critical Incident Planning and Mapping System managed by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

JLARC staff, with assistance from the Construction Services Group within Education Service District 112, will support the districts during the pilot with training, a data manual, and an Internet discussion board.

At the conclusion of the pilot, JLARC staff will evaluate the feasibility of extending K-12 facilities data collection statewide by:

- Comparing the data reported by the districts to data collected by an independent consultant; and
- Soliciting input from the districts and from an independent consultant on the time and effort required to collect the data, and any challenges encountered during the pilot.

As required by the study mandate, JLARC staff will also examine:

- Interaction of the statewide facilities system with other data collection efforts; and
- How information can be transferred efficiently from school districts to the statewide system.