

**K-12 Pilot Facility
Inventory,
Condition & Use
System
Report 10-2**

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND
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REPORT SUMMARY

Washington Lacks a Comprehensive Statewide Data System to Answer Questions About K-12 Facilities

The state currently lacks a comprehensive statewide data system for collecting and reporting information about K-12 facilities. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) receives some information from districts about school facilities, but only for the subset of districts applying for state funding. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) has gathered some information on all of the state's schools as part of an emergency response system, but this data does not include complete inventory or facility condition information. Districts themselves collect certain information about their own facilities. While these organizations have some valuable information, currently, there is no comprehensive system in place that can serve as a single source for standardized facilities information for all of the schools in the state.

The Legislature is interested in K-12 facilities in part because the Legislature appropriates state funding assistance funds for school construction. The Legislature provided \$690 million for school construction in the 2009-11 Capital Budget.

The Legislature Calls for a Pilot of a K-12 Facilities System

The 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2765, Section 1001) directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to define and develop a pilot facility condition and inventory system for K-12 public school facilities.

The overall goal of the pilot was to determine the feasibility and costs of statewide data collection on K-12 facilities. The study proviso indicated that, if a system were developed, it would be housed in and operated by OSPI. JLARC's pilot project organized K-12 facilities data into three categories to help answer questions such as the following:

- **Inventory Data** – How many school buildings are there? How old are they? How many have been remodeled, and at what cost? How many portables are in use?
- **Condition Data** – What is the physical condition of school buildings? How many buildings have systems that need repair or replacement? What would be the cost of repairs?
- **Use of Space and Functionality Data** – How is school building space being used? Are schools sharing space with the community? Is there space to offer all-day kindergarten? Is classroom space functional?

Results of the Pilot Project

JLARC’s pilot project demonstrated that, for the districts participating in the pilot, it was feasible to collect most – but not all – of the K-12 facility data explored in the pilot:

Category of Data	Inventory	Condition	Use of Space and Functionality
Was it Feasible To Collect the Data?	Yes	Yes	No
Comments	It was sometimes difficult for districts to provide all information for older buildings, such as purchase cost. However, districts suggested some workable alternatives for these questions.	Districts were able to conduct condition assessments for 17 building systems. The pilot showed less success for three other elements.	Standardized definitions were difficult to identify, and it was challenging for districts to collect data in a consistent manner.

Other Lessons from the Pilot

- Data already collected by WASPC could form the basis of OSPI’s inventory system.
- JLARC compared the usability of a new form for collecting condition data with the form school districts currently use to provide condition information to OSPI when requesting state funding. The pilot showed that the current OSPI form is adequate and could be made more useful if it were linked to a set of industry standard codes.
- School district staff and professional consultants independently conducted condition assessments of the same set of school buildings. The ratings for building condition submitted by district staff were very similar to those provided by the professional consultants.

Issues to Consider Prior to Pursuing a Statewide System for K-12 Facilities Data

With the results of the pilot project now available, it is up to the Legislature to determine whether to pursue a statewide system for K-12 facilities data.

The benefits of such a system would come largely in the form of being able to answer questions on a statewide basis about the inventory of K-12 facilities, and the condition of those facilities. These are questions that the state cannot currently answer.

The costs of such a system would vary depending on factors such as the extent of new condition assessments and whether a new system makes use of the existing OSPI assessment form. This report concludes with cost estimates for four different options using different combinations of these factors. Estimated costs for the four options range from \$2.5 million to \$5.7 million over three biennia. For details on cost options, see page 27.