



About FACTS

FACTS is a community-led program designed to provide opportunities for every member of the community to participate in shaping the plan to address the facility challenges faced by SLPS. A facilitating team of parents, staff and community members is leading this effort and has the support of the SLPS administration and Special Administrative Board.

Dr. Kelvin R. Adams
Superintendent of Schools

Special Administrative Board

Rick Sullivan
President and CEO

Melanie Adams
Vice President

Richard K. Gaines
Chairman
Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee

Please complete the Feedback Form or visit www.slps.org to complete online.

FACTS COMMUNITY TEAM MEMBERS

Ms. Mary J. Armstrong
AFT St. Louis, Local 420

Mrs. Ann Auer
Missouri Growth Association

Mr. Claude Brown, Sr.
St. Louis City NAACP Chapter

Mr. James H. Buford
Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis

The Honorable Anne-Marie Clarke
City of St. Louis Juvenile Court Judge

Ms. Bertha Gilkey
Community Volunteer

Dr. Henry Givens, Jr.
Harris-Stowe State University

Mr. Thomas J. Irwin
Civic Progress

Rev. Sammie Jones
Mount Zion Baptist Church

The Honorable Tishaura Jones
State of Missouri House of Representatives

The Honorable Terry Kennedy
City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen

Mr. William Monroe
Community Volunteer

Ms. Kathleen T. Osborn
The Regional Business Council

Dr. Doug Petty
Fresh Start Bible Church

Mr. Curtis Royston
Walbridge CEFSS

Ms. Ollie Stewart
Community Volunteer

Mr. Brian A. Wahby
Chairman, St. Louis City Democratic Central Committee

Mrs. Ida Woolfolk
Community Volunteer

The Honorable Phyllis Young
City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen

You can use any of the following methods to submit your feedback information:

FACTS Event: Complete and leave the form at any FACTS event or presentation.

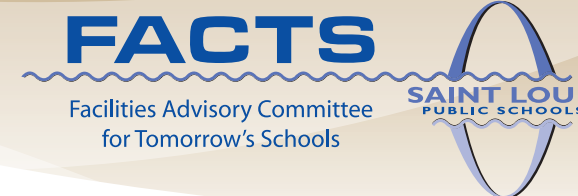
Mail Feedback Form to:
FACTS
c/o St. Louis Public Schools
801 N. 11th Street
St. Louis, MO 63101

Online: Complete the form online at www.slps.org (click on the FACTS logo and follow the prompts).

Email: Send your responses to the questions on the form to FACTS@slps.org

Fax: Send your completed form and comments to (314) 345-2665.

In person: Drop off the Feedback Form at any of the SLPS schools or District Office.



Addressing our needs, planning for our future

St. Louis Public Schools is committed to providing a quality education and helping students achieve at high levels. In order to reach these goals, however, our teachers and students need a quality learning environment. SLPS is developing a plan to address its facility needs, and the District is asking all residents to participate in this process through a community-led effort called FACTS (Facility Advisory Committee for Tomorrow's Schools). Through FACTS, all community members will have the opportunity to learn about the current draft of the plan and provide feedback. Please review this brochure to learn how you can be a part of finding the best solution for our needs.

The critical issue: Aging buildings, inadequate for today's education

Most of St. Louis Public Schools' buildings are more than 75 years old, and the age and condition of these facilities means that they are not adequate for providing a 21st century education. And as any homeowner knows, aging buildings need maintenance, repairs and improvements. Changes in health, safety and accessibility guidelines require improvements at every school, and the need to upgrade out-of-date building systems is a critical issue across the District.

The Planning Process

St. Louis Public Schools maintains 74 school buildings, which represents more than seven million square feet of space. These school buildings range from 6 to 132 years old, and most are more than 75 years old. Because of the age of its buildings and the maintenance and upgrades needed to provide a quality education, SLPS has been working to develop a plan to address these needs in the best, most responsible way. Before finalizing this plan or making decisions about its implementation, SLPS is turning to the community for its input and its guidance.



What's been done so far?

SLPS began work on a comprehensive facilities plan in 2006 with its Facilities Capital Action Plan (FCAP). A comprehensive facilities review was also completed in 2009, which included interviews with key administrative personnel and focus groups with faculty, students, and community leaders. Additional community meetings were held to provide further opportunities for input into the process.


Since the facilities review was completed in 2009, a number of steps have been taken by SLPS to reduce facilities expenses. Thirteen schools have been closed, and 39 school buildings have been decommissioned, saving over \$1 million in utility costs. Window replacement is underway at 21 of our schools, and other measures have been taken in order to reduce costs and improve fiscal responsibility.

What's next?

SLPS has recruited a group of community members to lead the *FACTS* process as a "facilitating team." The team will reach out to the community to share information about the draft plan. Just as importantly, the team will use a variety of methods to gather feedback from community members. This team will review all input received and make a report to the Special Administrative Board (SAB).

After this process has been completed, the SAB will review and finalize a facilities plan and determine a funding mechanism for moving forward with the plan.

How you can participate?


Your input is critical to helping improve the quality of education in our schools. Please review the information in this brochure and offer your own thoughts about the plan. On the back page, you will find instructions for providing feedback, as well as other ways to learn more and interact with SLPS on this important issue. 



Funding a facilities plan

After extensive study and review, more than \$300 million in facility needs have been identified by St. Louis Public Schools and the facilities experts with whom it has worked as part of the planning effort. As a conservative first step, the current draft of the facilities plan addresses approximately \$155 million of the most critical needs.

These facility needs exceed what can be addressed as part of the regular budgeting process. Lower revenues and higher expenses along with changing education needs have created an even greater sense of urgency with respect to funding a plan to address these challenges. SLPS is exploring the possibility of a bond issue to address the most critical of these needs. Funding from a bond issue can be used only for school facility repair, maintenance, improvements or construction, and cannot be used for day-to-day expenses of operating schools.

SLPS is in a unique position that allows the District to make significant improvements without increasing its tax levy. Low-cost bonds made possible through the federal economic stimulus package allow the District to finance improvements at zero (or near-zero) interest rates, which would give the District more "bang for the buck" than at any time in recent history. Therefore, SLPS is able to fund the \$155 million in the current draft of the facilities plan without raising its tax rate. 



Key priorities for improving schools

The priorities to improving the quality of education through facilities upgrades fall into three major categories.

Priority 1: Improving academic performance of students

Building and classroom improvements contribute to teaching and learning in our schools, whether done to comply with state standards or to provide new educational opportunities for students. Proposed improvements include:

- ~ Providing every student with access to computers, educational technology and up-to-date software
- ~ Bringing power and electrical service up-to-date to accommodate classroom technology requirements
- ~ Adding pre-kindergarten classrooms
- ~ Expanding the gifted student education program
- ~ Renovating and upgrading libraries, science labs, auditoriums, restrooms and cafeterias
- ~ Creating space to provide professional development opportunities for teachers
- ~ Improving athletic fields and facilities

Priority 2: Ensuring a safe, secure environment in all schools

Providing an environment suitable for learning is a key component of improving student performance. Proposed improvements include:

- ~ Removing lead paint in classrooms serving children age 6 and under
- ~ Replacing windows that have lead paint trim



- ~ Improving classroom health environments by repairing/replacing roofs to eliminate leaks and mold
- ~ Removing hazardous materials (i.e. asbestos and mold)
- ~ Improving security (lighting, cameras, locks and alarm systems)
- ~ Making fire safety upgrades (such as fire extinguishers, exit signage, smoke detectors and emergency lighting)
- ~ Making playground equipment safer
- ~ Improving building conditions (indoor air quality, sidewalks, stairs and athletic fields)

Priority 3: Promoting a healthy lifestyle for students

A healthy lifestyle is directly related to the quality of a student's performance. Proposed facility improvements to help SLPS students lead healthier lifestyles include:

- ~ Renovating out-of-date kitchens and replacing 60-year-old equipment to serve hot, nutritious meals to students
- ~ Upgrading playground equipment to provide students with more opportunities for exercise
- ~ Constructing one or more centrally located multi-purpose sports facilities for athletic practices and events

For more information about this plan:

Please visit the St. Louis Public Schools website at www.slps.org (click on the *FACTS* logo and follow the prompts) or call (314) 345-4694. Also, please complete the feedback form provided or visit our website to complete the form online. 