



## Center for Innovative School Facilities

A Project of Innovation Partnership

# Schools as Centers of Community

### Issue

The State of Oregon is in the bottom 25% nationally when it comes to supporting school facilities. Oregon lacks:

- Regular funding mechanisms
- Agency offering technical assistance
- School facility standards/guidelines
- Inventory of the current condition of school district assets for planning and priority setting

While real estate development is certainly not an expertise expected of superintendents or school board members, many districts are “learning the hard way”, resulting in community disappointment and unfunded commitments. An overemphasis on first costs, followed by barely keeping up with essential operations is caused by the “bond or bust” cycle.

### Strategies

The Center for Innovative School Facilities has created four initiatives based on issues raised by a broad group of community, business, labor, government, and educational leaders:

<p><b>Facility Funding:</b> This group is dedicated to finding and creating regular funding sources for school facilities through loans, grants, and direct governmental allocations</p>	<p><b>Health and Safety:</b> Decades of insufficient funding have left schools across Oregon short of basic safety standards. The Health and Safety Initiative group will focus on life preservation and quality of life issues.</p>
<p><b>Science and Technology:</b> 42% of Oregon’s 10<sup>th</sup> graders do not meet state science standards. It is difficult to teach research and experiment based curriculum without the proper tools. This group is surveying the currently available science assets, identifying priorities, and developing facility projects to support science and technology.</p>	<p><b>Sustainability:</b> Sustainable design, construction, and operations are strategies for cutting costs, saving energy, and engaging the broader community. This initiative group is committed to starting model programs, identifying the best practices, and assisting districts in procuring state, federal, and foundation money to do green construction and retrofits.</p>

“Since its inception, the Center has continually impressed me with its understanding of our facility issues and willingness to take on tough statewide problems. The Center’s work with our district has been efficient and innovative”

-Barbara Rommel,  
Superintendent, David  
Douglas School District

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