



## National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities



In 1996, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimated that the maintenance and repair backlog for the nation's schools exceeded \$100 billion. A follow-up study by the National Education Association estimated costs at well over \$300 billion for both new construction and renovation, maintenance and repair needs. The U.S. Department of Education created the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities (NCEF) to help school districts build and operate safe, healthy, high-performing schools.

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NCEF is a comprehensive, unbiased and up-to-date compilation of more than 23,000 resources. Created in 1997, it is now the largest source of school facilities information in the world. NCEF is managed by the National Institute of Building Sciences.

NCEF website visitors are school board members, educators, facility managers, school planners, architects, engineers, researchers, public officials, citizens and students. They are the faces behind an annual \$14.5 billion in school construction spending, \$53 billion in school operations and maintenance costs, and \$18 billion in school energy costs.

The millions of annual visitors to the NCEF website, [ncef.org](http://ncef.org), find an array of timely and comprehensive educational facilities-related resources, including:

- Continuously-updated materials; abstracts to quickly understand content; subject-specific bibliographies that organize the material; and the searchable features that make these resources easily accessible to a broad audience.
- Quarterly reports and forecasts of U.S. school construction project costs.

- A dedicated Green Schools section with current information on sustainable, energy-efficient, high-performance schools, colleges and universities.
- Key information on school facility safety and security issues, a video series on identifying safety vulnerabilities and an online, customizable facility assessment tool.
- Important recent school facilities-related news from around the country.
- 56 free publications published by NCEF.
- A helpful directory of educational facilities-related professional organizations; federal, state and local agencies and organizations; academic research centers; and media sources.

NCEF recently provided important data and research to the White House and the U.S. Department of Education on the condition and age of America's schools in support of the President's proposal for \$25 billion to repair and renovate schools found in the American Jobs Act.

You can now follow NCEF on Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/#!/schoolbuildings> ■



**Staff Contact:** Judy Marks, Hon. AIA, NCEF Director

**Email:** [jmarks@nibs.org](mailto:jmarks@nibs.org)

**Website:** [www.nibs.org/ncef](http://www.nibs.org/ncef)