

Facility construction will be undertaken in accordance with the long-range plan adopted by the board of education and the facility design approved by the board.

Buildings should be constructed with durable materials that, when possible, permit space to be adapted to various purposes and to be adjusted to changes in technology or the educational program.

The board will not accept substandard construction. In the event of insufficient funding for a project, the board will defer implementing parts of the long-range plan.

Any repairs or renovations of school facilities should be undertaken in such a way as to minimize disruption of instructional time and the educational environment.

The following criteria are ranked by order of importance for the purpose of establishing priorities for new school construction, additions, and major renovations:

1. Facilities which contain progressively deteriorating conditions which, if not corrected, could prevent future use of the structure or result in safety concerns.
2. Facilities which do not provide for accessibility for all students and staff include those with disabilities.
3. Immediate facility needs created by the loss of leased/rental space or catastrophic event requiring replacement or relocation of an existing facility.
4. Facilities which are overcrowded to the extent that regular classrooms or basic courses must be housed in single/double-wide trailers or other comparable substandard space which negatively affect the instructional program (if the option of floating teachers has been utilized at middle or secondary schools).
5. Facilities in which necessary specialized areas are lacking or extremely inadequate to accommodate the educational program supported and funded by the Board of Education and/or the County Commissioners.
6. Pupil population membership and projections clearly indicate that a school population is consistently overcapacity, has been overcapacity for several years or will be overcapacity in the near future and is reasonably expected to continue to be overcapacity, necessitating construction of new facilities for regular classrooms, support areas or Board funded programs in order to equitably meet the educational requirements or needs of the student population.
7. Older facilities that require excessive maintenance or operational cost for continued operation and/or are unable to accommodate current educational requirements.
8. Facilities which lack the space necessary to implement the countywide grade organizational pattern.

9. Permanent facilities which lack adequate space to house non-basic classes or support services to the extent that they are housed in single/double-wide trailers or other comparable substandard space.
10. Facilities where it is recognized that maximum enrollment for the facility and/or site has been exceeded, resulting in possible problems related to health, safety, or educational program delivery.
11. Athletic facilities. Note that facilities regularly utilized for scheduled physical education shall be considered a component of the basic course of study and are higher priority. Athletic facilities, funded by the Board of Education or by community groups such as booster clubs, PTO etc., and accepted by the Board shall be maintained according to reasonable safety, accessibility, sanitary, building code and structural standards that apply to other Board assets.
12. Other considerations.

Notes:

- Any school facility that meets more than one of criteria may be advanced to a higher priority.
- Projects costing less than \$300,000 shall normally be considered for funding through the regular capital outlay process. Projects in excess of \$300,000 may be referred to the Building Program and long range planning study for alternative funding if the Capital Outlay funding process cannot reasonably address the verified needs.
- Modular classrooms are not cost effective, flexible and equitable solutions to capacity and programmatic goals. This is due to their high cost of compliance with Life Safety Building Codes, security concerns, technology standards and accessibility issues as well as higher than normal operational, maintenance and relocation costs. A modular classroom solution shall be considered for emergencies, where other alternatives have been exhausted, where funding for a permanent solution is not available, or where there are serviceable and readily available units considered surplus or underutilized at other school sites.
- Conventional construction will be undertaken in groups of four (4) or more classrooms or basic course of study spaces. Alternatively, construction of basic/regular classrooms may be considered in combination with other verified needs such as special needs classrooms, expansion of core spaces (gym, administration offices, media centers, cafeterias) and/or support areas (restrooms, kitchens, mechanical spaces) that are deemed deteriorated, undersized, substandard per DPI guidelines, inadequate for Board funded programs, inequitable or result in significant degradation of instruction, safety and security.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-521, -524

Cross References: Planning to Address Facility Needs (policy 9000), Facility Design (policy 9020)

Adopted: June 5, 2014

REPLACES BCS POLICY 515