

INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION



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INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

2021 Capital Budget Hearing Testimony

Senate Budget and Taxation Capital Budget
Subcommittee

Senator Peters, Chair

March 2, 2020

House Appropriations Capital Budget
Subcommittee

Delegate Chang, Chair

March 4, 2020

Presenters

Dr. Karen Salmon, Chair, IAC

Robert Gorrell, Executive Director, IAC

Kim Spivey, Deputy Director of Administration, IAC

Thank you for your continuing support for public school construction in Maryland, and for the opportunity to report today on the capital budget for the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC). The Commission and their staff are tasked with a significant mission to:

Provide leadership and resources to local education agencies in the development of school facilities so that all Maryland public school students, teachers, administrators, and staff have safe and educationally supportive environments in which to teach and learn. The overriding goal of the IAC is to promote equity in the quality of school facilities throughout the State of Maryland.

In this report we will respond to the analyst's questions, and will provide additional information that may be of interest to the members of the committee.

2018's House Bill 1783 changed and increased the requirements of our program significantly, and we are striving to meet the changes as quickly as possible. In 2019, the IAC worked with the two workgroups established by the 21st Century School Facilities Act: The Workgroup on Educational Development Specifications and the Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities. These Workgroups are looking at everything from project eligibility, to improving utilization rates, publishing best practices, and providing better support to the LEAs through the provision of systems, such as a Statewide Computerized Maintenance Management System. The IAC continues to review and work on these recommendations and is prepared to act on any legislation that is enacted during the 2020 legislative session.

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends that IAC change its Managing for Results (MFR) goals to this more accurate performance measure.

The current maintenance assessments are intended to measure only the effectiveness of *maintenance* and not facility condition, which will be measured through the statewide facilities assessment. The IAC has used average age as a proxy to illustrate the order of magnitude facility condition of the entire statewide portfolio, but at the facility level this is also not a good measure of condition.

The IAC will consider alternative maintenance measures for accuracy and will work with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to implement revisions as necessary. The IAC will also propose additional measures to track facility condition after statewide assessment results are available.

Regarding the Healthy School Facility Fund, **DLS recommends striking the contingent language to fund the program with general funds as mandated.**

The IAC is pleased to administer this program through available funding sources as provided by the administration through legislation.

Regarding the School Safety Grant Program, **DLS recommends striking the contingent language to fund this program with general funds in fiscal 2021.**

The IAC is pleased to administer this program through available funding sources as provided by the administration through legislation.

Regarding the DeGrange Nonpublic Aging Schools Program, **DLS recommends restoring this language to the fiscal 2021 GO bond authorization** to require that grants be expended within three years of becoming available.

The IAC agrees with this recommendation.

Regarding Nonpublic School Safety Grants, the **fiscal 2021 budget bill does not include program eligibility requirements, grant distribution amounts, and that IAC will administer this fund. DLS recommends restoring this language.**

The IAC agrees with this recommendation.