

INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

KAREN B. SALMON, PhD.
CHAIRPERSON

ROBERT A. GORRELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

200 WEST BALTIMORE STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201
410-767-0617

IAC.MARYLAND.GOV

IAC.MSDE@MARYLAND.GOV

INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

2021 Operational Budget Hearing Testimony

House Appropriations Education and
Economic Development Subcommittee
Delegate Barnes, Chair
January 22, 2020

Senate Budget and Taxation Education,
Business and Administration Subcommittee
Senator Zucker, Chair
January 23, 2020

Presenters

Dr. Karen Salmon, IAC Chair
Robert Gorrell, Executive Director
Kim Spivey, Deputy Director of Administration

Thank you for your continuing support for public school construction in Maryland, and for the opportunity to report today on the operating 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.

Due to continued hiring challenges for IAC, DLS recommends the adoption of committee narrative for IAC and MSDE Office of Human Resources to jointly report to the budget committees by July 1, 2020 on how MSDE and IAC intend to fill current vacancies.

The MSDE and IAC agree to provide this report and concurs with this recommendation, shown as Recommended Action item 2.

Due to IAC's request for an extension for the funding workgroup and the delay in the procurement of a third-party vendor for SFA, DLS recommends the adoption of budget bill language for IAC to report to the budget committees by July 1, 2020 on the agency's progress to secure a third-party vendor for this assessment, its anticipated timeline for completing the required assessment, and its anticipated cost.

The IAC supports this recommendation and agrees to provide this report. It should be noted that the RFP for the Statewide Facilities Assessment (SFA) was released and posted to the eMaryland Marketplace Advantage website on Friday, January 17, 2020. It should also be noted that the Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities has published their preliminary report¹, but have also requested an extension to provide their final report until December 1, 2020.

Due to a delay in the procurement of a vendor for the Integrated Master Facility Asset Library, DLS recommends the adoption of committee narrative for IAC to report to the budget committees by September 2, 2020, on its progress to secure a contractor for this project, the anticipated timeline for implementation, and its anticipated cost.

The IAC supports this recommendation and agrees to provide this report.

Additionally, IAC should comment on the combined timelines for these projects and provide further detail on how their implementation will meet Chapter 14 requirements. IAC should also identify the funding source for the Integrated Master Facility Asset Library.

¹ <http://iac.maryland.gov/Workgroups/FundingWG/FIN%20AFWG%20Preliminary%20Report%202019%2012%2001.pdf>

The SFA will provide the initial statewide facilities assessment for each of Maryland's approximately 1,400 schools, after which the IAC will begin conducting its own assessments of each facility's educational sufficiency and facility condition so that data is never more than four years old, in accordance with Chapter 14 (2018). Chapter 14 further requires the IAC to create an Integrated Master Facilities Asset Library to house facilities-related data and that the IAC receive all LEA submissions electronically. The database associated with the SFA in conjunction with the business management system (BMS) will provide the foundation for the IAC to meet these requirements.

The SFA RFP requires the assessment of all schools to be completed by December 31, 2020 and an intermediate report within 10 calendar days of completing the assessment of first 50% of all school facilities to be assessed. The BMS RFP is expected to be released in February 2020 and contracted to go live a little more than a year after the notice to proceed.

The IAC currently has \$3.5 million available for the purchase of the SFA and a business management system. A \$500,000 deficiency appropriation has been requested as the cost for these systems is expected to exceed available funding. However, the exact amount of the deficiency required won't be known until after the SFA is under contract and proposals for the business management system have been evaluated.

Due to the convoluted nature of this measure and its misalignment with the statutory requirement in Chapter 14, DLS recommends that IAC revise its MFR measures to comply with statutory requirements to include, at a minimum, a measure of "total number of school buildings surveyed per year."

The IAC agrees with this recommendation and will work with the MSDE work and the Department of Budget and Management to revise the MFR for FY 2022.

Other Recommended Budget Action

1. The Department of Legislative Services recommends that the committees add language restricting \$100,000 of general funds in the IAC budget until a report on the agency's progress to secure a third-party vendor for the assessment, its anticipated timeline for completing the required assessment, and its anticipated cost. Given the current timeline for receipt of bids for the RFP the IAC staff anticipate that it will be able to submit the report by July 1, 2020.
We concur with the DLS recommendation for item 1.
2. The Department of Legislative Services recommends that the committees adopt narrative as shown in items 2-4.

We concur with the DLS recommendations for items 2-4.