



FALL SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT // NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October 2019

ASSESSMENT AND FUNDING WORKGROUP

The Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities was established by HB 1783 (2018), which tasked the Workgroup with considering how to prioritize the results of a statewide school facilities assessment and, subsequently, how to use the information to direct State funding. The workgroup began meeting in June and will meet a total of six times, concluding their work on November 19, 2019, with the submission of their final report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1st .

The Statewide Public School Construction Program currently funds school construction projects in the state through a number of programs, the largest of which is the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Workgroup has made it clear that any funding that will be allocated based upon the results of the Statewide school facilities assessment should be new funding, and that existing programs should remain in place in order to support the Local Education Agencies who have planned projects several years ahead of time and rely on consistent State funding when planning school improvements.

In addition to considering how to use the assessment in school funding decisions, the Assessment and Funding Workgroup is also considering recommendations made by the Workgroup on Educational Development Specifications in their final report. In particular, the Assessment and Funding Workgroup will consider implementing an incentive that would increase, by a number of percentage points, the State's share of a school construction project if it can be demonstrated that the project will have a lower total cost of ownership (including the first cost to build the facility and the cost to own and maintain the facility over 30 years) than a baseline figure based upon industry standards.

Information and material for the Workgroup's meetings, as well as live and archived video, can be found at the IAC's website.



Fiscal Year 19 School Safety Grant Program Wrap-Up



Round II funding decisions for the FY 2019 School Safety Grant have been completed, and school systems have been notified of the results. All 24 school systems and the Maryland School for the Blind made applications prior to the September 30, 2019 deadline and no outstanding issues remain.

\$20 million was allocated to the School Safety Grant Program in FY 2019. The full allocation was divided with \$10 million made available to LEAs in Round I and \$10 million in Round II. The IAC received 603 applications, and as of October 24, staff approved 586 projects totaling \$9,997,686. 17 project requests have been removed for consideration by the school systems.

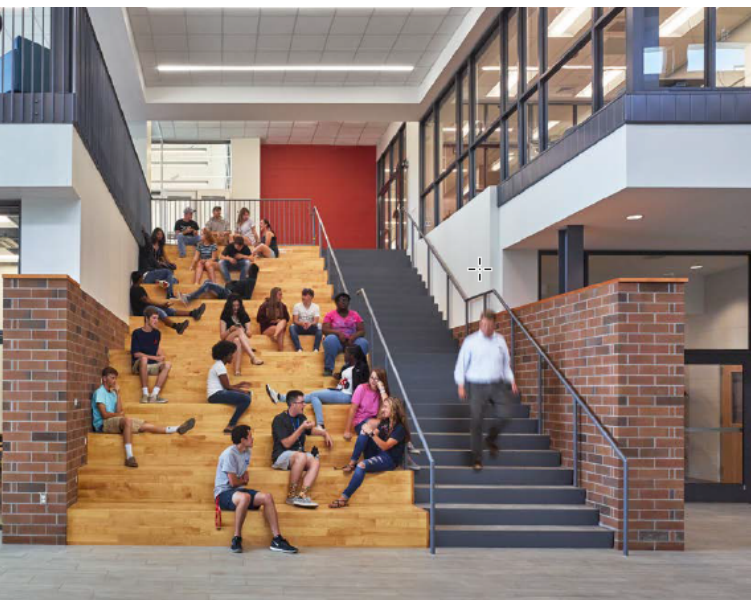
By a large degree, most of the approved funding was for security vestibules. The category most requested was Access Control Systems, which included network enabled access control at exterior doors, upgrades to card access and visitor pass systems, campus security fencing, directional signage and metal detectors. An additional \$10 million has been allocated for FY 2020. Application details will be posted to the IAC website when they become available.

Fiscal Year 19

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE REPORT

The FY 2019 Annual Report was published in September, summarizing the maintenance results of all FY 2019 LEA assessments. An electronic version of the report is available on the IAC website, <http://iac.maryland.gov/>.

The Maintenance Group has been focusing on increasing personnel to meet their goal of assessing 25% - 33% of public schools each year. As of October 4th, the IAC Maintenance Group has conducted twelve re-inspections and eighty-three maintenance assessments for FY 2020; they are on track to complete at least 25% of schools at each LEA by the end of this fiscal year.



School Spotlight

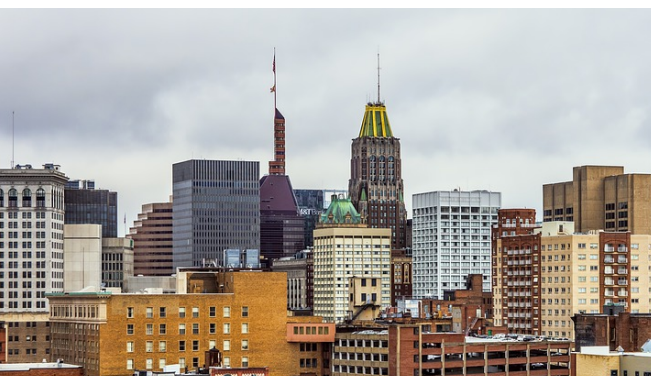
NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

Like many Maryland schools, the new North Dorchester High School has become more than just a school; it is also a community asset. The new school took the place of the previous iteration of North Dorchester High, replacing an over 60 year old building in its stead. The project began in 2018, and soon after, construction was underway. Seeking the community's input was paramount to ensuring that NDHS continued to serve as a community resource. Throughout the planning, design, and construction process leading up to the school opening, members of the community worked alongside the Board of Education, school staff and the design and build teams, providing input, guidance and direction on the new school and site.

NDHS was built on the site of the original school, keeping the school in operation as the new building was constructed. After recycling all reusable materials from the existing facility for fiscal sustainability, the school opened on September 4th, 2019. The total project cost was finalized at \$41.3 million, with the State contributing \$28.4 million. The IAC congratulates Dorchester County on their successful project.

STATE & LOCAL COST SHARES

At the September 12, 2019 meeting, the IAC approved revisions to the State Cost Share Formula to conform with statutory changes to definitions of Tier I counties, consistent with the Economic Development Article, §1-101, Annotated Code of Maryland. This revision also included a 24-month grace period to factor unemployment rate and factor income level. For FY 2021 and FY 2022, the IAC voted unanimously to adopt the figures and hold harmless any LEA that would have seen a reduction based purely on the formula calculation. Each LEA received the higher State cost share percentage of either the approved FY 2020 State Cost Share or the Calendar Year 2018 calculated state cost share. Each LEA's State and Local Cost Shares can be found on the IAC's website.



Upcoming Events

Workgroup on Assessment and Funding of School Facilities Meetings

October 28th, 2019 & November 19th, 2019
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Budget and Taxation Committee Room
3 West Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen St,
Annapolis, MD 21401

IAC Meetings

November 14th, December 12th, and January 9th
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
7th Floor State Boardroom
Nancy Grasmick Building, 200 W Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Interagency Commission on School Construction

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