

THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

# SPRING NEWSLETTER



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2021 Legislative Session ended at midnight on April 12, 2021. The session included several initiatives of note in school construction, including the enactment of the Built to Learn Act of 2020, which allows the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue revenue bonds to fund school construction projects. The IAC and the Maryland Stadium Authority are currently working to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that is required by the legislation prior to issuance of bonds and which will govern the program.

In order to keep IAC stakeholders informed of this rapidly evolving program development, the IAC has created a web page that will regularly be updated with new information.

A summary of legislation impacting school construction will be presented to the IAC at their meeting on April 29. [Click here to view that meeting information.](#)

### Table of Contents

- 1 – *Legislative Update***
- 2 – *School Spotlight***
- 2 – *CIP Release Timeline***
- 3 – *Update on the SFA***
- 3 – *Upcoming Events***
- 3 – *Notifications Sign Up***

# SHARPSBURG ELEMENTARY: SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

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Washington County's Sharpsburg Elementary, which opened in fall 2020, is an excellent example of a new school that minimizes the long-term total cost of ownership through efficient sizing achieved through creative design approaches. WCPS and its architect employed several thoughtful solutions to keep the total gross square footage of this small elementary school equal to the IAC's gross area baseline (GAB) gross square footage of 60,054 for a State-rated capacity of 473, including 20 special-education students. Diversity of spaces and flexibility were core design principles. The cafetorium stage was outfitted with sound-dampening partitions so that it may be used as an instrumental music classroom. In lieu of multiple storage rooms, unassigned spaces throughout the school were converted into storage areas.



The architect was adamant that a site-specific design approach would result in a more cost-effective project. The topography of the site is complicated, with elevation changes in excess of 15 feet. The decision was made early on to use a masonry foundation/structure that also acts as site retaining walls.

The educational specifications were created by breaking down the GAB square footage by department. As space was added to some departments, it was automatically removed from others, maintaining the overall size. Once approved, this spreadsheet was reviewed with the curriculum staff, explaining their allocated square footages and the architect providing examples of past project layouts meeting the space sizes. Schematic drawings were developed based on the Ed-Spec spaces and then reviewed again with the curriculum staff and adjusted very minimally. This carefully managed process kept the overall square footage within original scope and budget. In all, the cost came out to \$396/SF, with a \$23.8 million total project cost and a \$15.3 million state share.

## CIP RELEASE TIMELINE

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The final stage in the IAC's annual Capital Improvement Program is approval of the 100% allocations after the session of the General Assembly has concluded and the budget for the following year is finalized. At our May 27th IAC Meeting, we will be voting on approval of projects in the FY22 CIP.

# UPDATE ON THE STATEWIDE FACILITY ASSESSMENT

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The IAC is implementing a Statewide Facilities Assessment (SFA) to collect data on the condition and educational sufficiency of each public K-12 school facility in Maryland, in accordance with the 21st Century School Facilities Act of 2018.

As of April 7<sup>th</sup>, a total of 947 Schools have been assessed, representing 67% of the 1,409 school facilities in the State. Eight of the 24 LEAs have had their assessments completed, with 13 underway, and three to begin soon.

The assessments are proceeding on schedule and are expected to be complete by the end of June 2021. IAC staff will spend the summer of 2021 analyzing the collected data and preparing a report for the Workgroup on the Assessment & Funding of School Facilities.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- **April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 AM** – IAC Meeting
- **May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 AM** – IAC Meeting
- **May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021** – CIP Approvals
- **June IAC Meeting** – Cancelled
- **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021** – End of Fiscal Year
- **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021** – CIP Publication