

New Construction

FACILITY PLANNING

A quality educational program can best function in an environment that is conducive to learning, supports and encourages excellence in teaching, and provides a safe and comfortable place for students and staff. It is the Ledyard Board of Education 's responsibility to develop and implement plans for the District that will meet the educational requirements of the community for the present and the future. Accordingly, the Board establishes the following planning goals for school building projects:

1. Develop both short-term and long-term facility needs plans;
2. Provide the facilities needed to equitably serve all students in the District;
3. Provide facilities and equipment that will best support and accommodate the needs of a quality educational program;
4. Design and construct facilities, as needed, with particular attention to safety, security, appropriate lighting, heating, ventilation, acoustics, spatial factors, aesthetic appearance, and accessibility requirements for disabled students and staff;
5. Plan for flexible and adaptable school spaces through incorporation of features such as moveable walls and multi-purpose facilities in order to best accommodate present and future needs for instructional areas; and
6. Consider the adaptability of school facilities to maximize community usage.

Decisions pertaining to the accomplishment and/or modification of major school building projects shall be made only after the viewpoints of teachers, students, parents, and other members of the community have been considered. To facilitate this requirement, the Board may create an advisory committee, representing all groups utilizing District facilities and including any other individuals the Board and or the Superintendent deems appropriate, to propose and consider ideas and suggestions in the construction, remodeling, and/or repair of District facilities.

Short-Term Facility Needs

Short-term facility needs will focus on those repairs, renovations, alterations, and/or modernization projects that will improve the educational function and usage of current school facilities. Items which may pose a danger to staff and/or student health, safety or security should be dealt with expeditiously by the Board.

The short-term facility needs program should include, but not be limited to, those projects which improve the educational environment for students and teachers by raising the physical standards of school buildings and/or are needed to comply with state and/or federal guidelines.

The Board's Facilities and Land Use Committee shall review the short-term facility needs as often as necessary and provide recommendation to the Board as to the priority of accomplishment and cost of the identified facility capital needs.

Long-Term School Building Program

The Board will gather and analyze appropriate data to evaluate the District's facilities needs on a long-term basis (typically 5-10 years into the future). Such data shall include, but not be limited to:

- Current student population and enrollment projections,
- Anticipated changes in the instructional program,
- Analysis of community building plans, including proposed zoning changes,
- Analysis of school building sites,

- Current and anticipated community use of educational facilities, and
- Evaluation of present facilities, including current and anticipated maintenance costs and level of over-crowding or under-utilization.

The District's long-term school building program, known as the Master Building Plan, shall be reviewed annually by the Board and modified as necessary. The plan shall include financial estimates of providing the necessary school facilities.

Student Enrollment Projections

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall prepare, and update annually, enrollment projections for the District. The enrollment projections shall include, but not be limited to:

- Figures from the latest town census;
- Historical school enrollment figures;
- Proposed or forthcoming changes in community planning and zoning; and
- Review of current and planned community land development and housing projects.

Whenever construction of new school facilities is being contemplated, the Board may authorize outside studies of population trends and school enrollment.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-220. Duties of boards of education.

10-282. Definitions.

10-283. Applications for grants for school building projects.

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ledyard, Connecticut