

Wyoming School Facilities Commission 2006 Annual Report

Contribution to Wyoming's Quality of Life

The School Facilities Commission was established by the 2002 Wyoming Legislature to provide adequate, efficient and cost effective educational facilities in the K-12 public education system.

Basic Facts:

The School Facilities Commission is charged with regulatory oversight and funding of all major maintenance, renovation and construction of new school facilities throughout the state.

The seven member commission is comprised of the state superintendent of public instruction or designee, and six members who are Wyoming residents appointed as follows: One member of the state board of education; three members appointed by the Governor having knowledge and experience in: building and facility engineering, construction and operations; building design and specification; estimating, bidding and building construction; two members appointed by state superintendent of public instruction having knowledge and experience in school facilities planning and management and the state educational program for public schools as required by law.

The Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining uniform statewide standards for school building adequacy; adopting policies, guidelines and standards for the statewide assessment of school buildings, school district facility plans and cost per square foot for construction projects; entering into project agreements with school districts for construction and renovation of buildings; developing commission budget and funding recommendations for school building remedies; and administering major maintenance payments.

The Commission serves forty-eight school districts with approximately 80,000 school age children in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The agency has 18 employees.

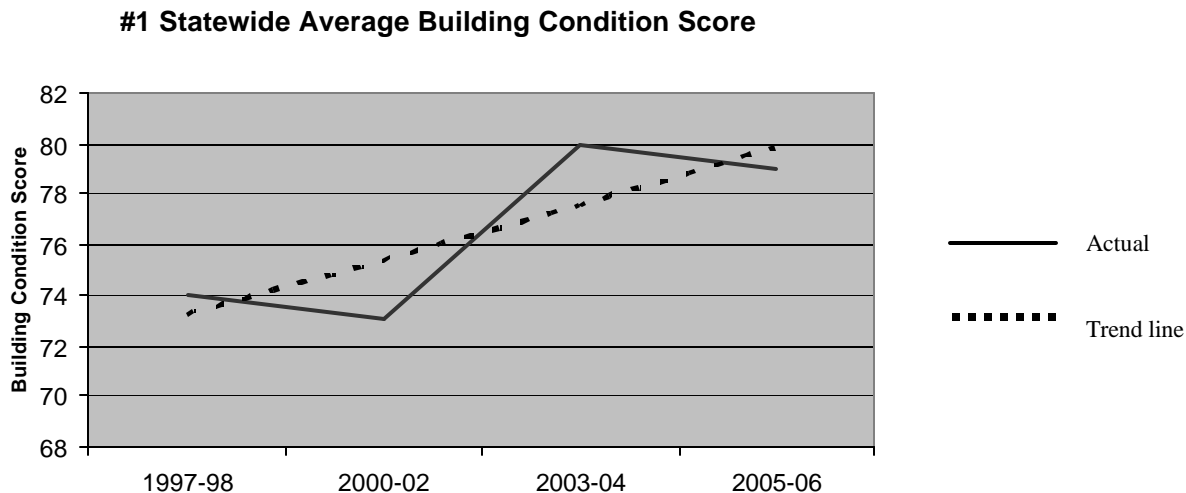
The agency appropriation for the 2006-07 biennium is as follows:

Agency Operations	\$ 7,350,256
Emergency Use	\$ 1,000,000
Major Capital Construction *	\$ 220,652,041
Minor Construction **	\$ 36,195,644
Major Maintenance	\$ 68,200,000
Inflation	\$ 55,000,000
Project Contingency Costs	\$ 14,000,000
Project Value Engineering Costs	\$ 3,000,000

* Construction projects over \$200,000

** Construction projects under \$200,000

Performance:



#1: Condition scores of school buildings and facilities assessed

Graph #1 depicts the statewide average building condition scores for school district facilities at various points in time. The increasing trend in building condition scores can be attributed to use of major maintenance funds as well as minor and major capital construction funds to renovate, replace and build new school facilities.

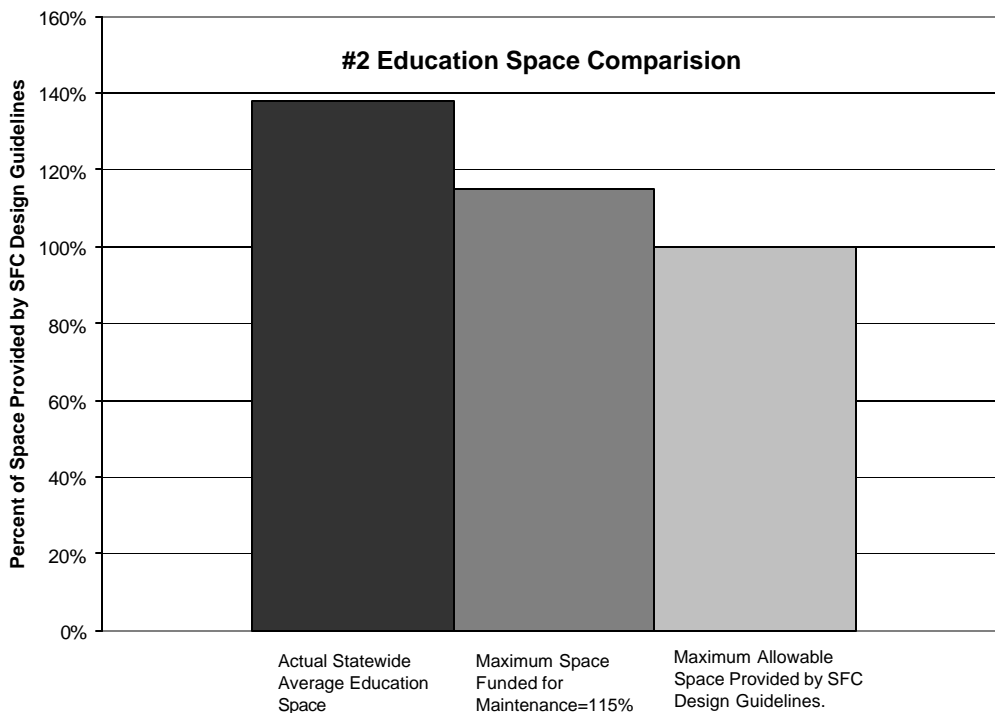
Major maintenance funds are used to maintain buildings by funding repair or replacement of major building systems. Minor and major capital construction funds overlap major maintenance funds, but are used primarily to renovate and replace buildings.

The 2004-05 budget appropriated \$71,800,000 for major maintenance and \$293,999,412 for minor and major capital construction. These funds have been fully obligated to construction projects around the state, but not all projects have been constructed at this point.

The 2006-07 budget appropriated \$325,846,685 broken down into \$68,193,771 for major maintenance, \$36,194,664 for minor capital construction and \$220,652,041 for major capital construction. In addition, \$55 million of the total appropriation was to address inflationary increases in costs, \$11,000,000 for project contingency costs and \$3,000,000 for project value engineering costs. The construction and major maintenance funds have been fully obligated to construction projects around the state, however, additional flexibility was provided to the SFC in this budget to reprioritize which projects will receive funding in order to more efficiently make use of the appropriated funds. Inflation, contingency and value engineering funds are allocated by the Commission upon a demonstration that the expenditure is appropriate.

Expenditure of these funds has led to an improvement in the condition of Wyoming's school buildings. The SFC process for evaluating and prioritizing projects has evolved significantly, is no longer solely dependent on building condition assessment scores, and has aided the process of improving building conditions overall. Also, to more accurately measure and track the condition of school buildings, the School Facilities Commission has been given legislative authority to conduct building condition assessments using the School Facilities Commission staff. The School

Facilities Commission has retained specialized consulting services to develop an industry-acceptable methodology for conducting building assessments on a biennial basis. The School Facilities Commission staff is currently conducting updated building condition assessments of educational facilities across the state.



#2: Excess education space

As part of its responsibilities, the School Facilities Commission has established adequacy guidelines which derive the square footage of school facilities in each school district deemed adequate to deliver an appropriate education to Wyoming’s schoolchildren. Based on square footage calculations obtained from the 2006 major maintenance calculation, existing education space in Wyoming schools exceeds the adequacy guidelines adopted by Commission rule and regulation by nearly 40%. In fact, space in roughly one quarter of the state’s school districts exceeds space standards by at least one half the amounts determined as adequate, with several districts approaching 200% of the adequacy level. To address the issue of excess educational space (or capacity) in Wyoming school districts, the legislature ordered the School Facilities Commission to undertake an analysis of excess capacity in the 2006 legislative interim.

Story Behind the Last Year of Performance:

(See the explanation following each graph)

What has been accomplished?

School Facilities Commission

During budget periods 2002-2008, the School Facilities Commission has been appropriated in excess of \$990,000,000 for capital construction and major maintenance projects and its internal operations.

Over this period of time, the Commission has approved 5,177 major maintenance projects, 920 minor capital projects and 517 major capital projects, including ten (10) entirely new school buildings.

In addition to construction projects across the state, the School Facilities Commission has successfully implemented an in-house building assessment program and is currently conducting building assessments. The School Facilities Commission continues efforts to refine its processes in order to serve district needs most efficiently. The School Facilities Commission continues to respond to the ongoing directives of the legislature, and is currently working to complete several special studies.

Budget Implications:

The School Facilities Commission continues to plan and budget to ensure design and construction projects advance efficiently and that timely maintenance and improvement of existing facilities is promoted. The School Facilities Commission is submitting an annual budget request as required by W.S. 21-15-119. The budget request seeks additional funding for major maintenance, major capital construction, replenishment of inflation funds and authority from the legislature for the Commission to add projects to the district facility plans upon a demonstration of appropriate need.