



K-12 School Construction in California: Policy Framework for Sustainable School Facilities

Senate Select Committee on
School Facilities

Jeff Vincent, Deputy Director
Center for Cities & Schools
UC Berkeley

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CC&S School Facilities Work

CENTER for CITIES & SCHOOLS

Great Schools by Design

FORUM PROCEEDINGS REPORT

BUILDING SCHOOLS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES:

A FORUM ON THE ROLE OF STATE POLICY IN CALIFORNIA

Re-Visioning School Facility Planning and Design for the 21st Century

Creating Optimal Learning Environments

Roundtable Discussion
October 15 and 16, 2008

Hosted by the
California Department of Education
School Facilities Planning Division

THE COMPLEX AND MULTI-FACETED NATURE OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COSTS:

Factors Affecting California

RESEARCH FINDINGS
JUNE 2008

Prepared by
Jeffrey M. Vincent and Deborah McKay
Center for Cities and Schools
University of California-Berkeley

GROWTH and DISPARITY

A Decade of U.S. Public School Construction

B&ST BUILDING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS TOGETHER

CENTER for CITIES & SCHOOLS

PACE Policy Analysis for California Education Center for Cities and Schools 2009

AIA California Council

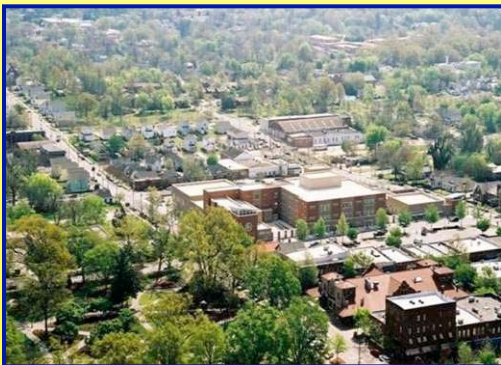
Smart Schools, Smart Growth

Investing in Education Facilities and Stronger Communities

Also issued as Institute of Urban and Regional Development Working Paper 2009-03

Key Framing Points

1. Facilities overlooked as important element of student success and in closing the achievement gap
2. Schools are one of most important infrastructure assets in neighborhoods



State Responsibility in Public School Facilities

1. Ensure educational appropriateness
2. Ensure student safety
3. Ensure equity
4. Assist with LEA capital costs
5. Ensure wise investment



What is California's need?

- Enrollments continue to rise
- Large maintenance backlog
- Enormous local appetite for state bonds
 - \$35 billion in state bonds since 1998
 - \$80 billion state and local since 1998



California's Need: School Facility Conditions

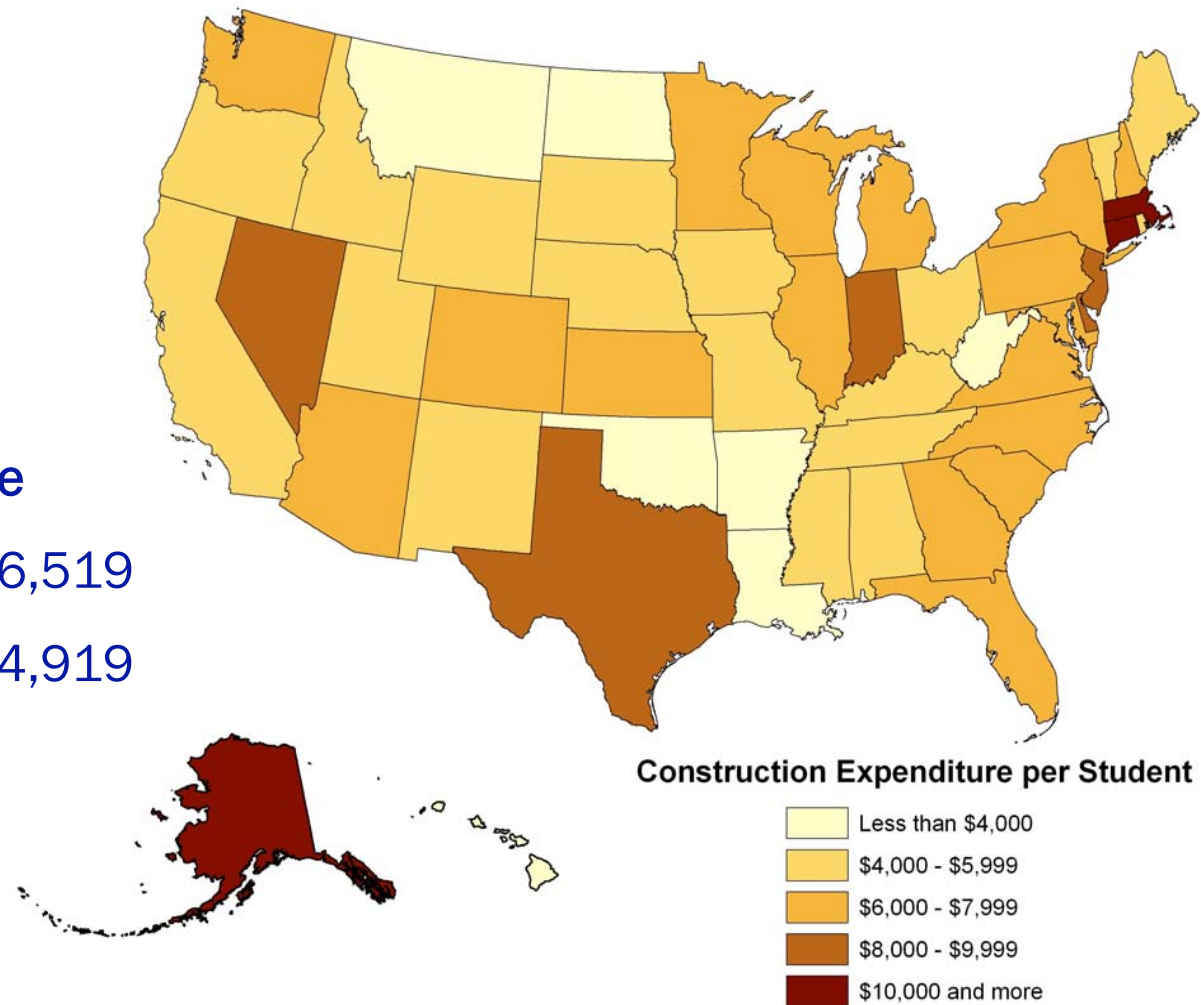
- CA has among the nation's worst school facilities (US GAO 1996)
- 1/3 of students in overcrowded or out-of-repair schools (LAO 2001)
- Poor conditions in state's 85,000 portables (CARB & DHS 2003)

Meeting California's Need: Behind in National Spending Per Student

1995-2004 Average

National: \$6,519

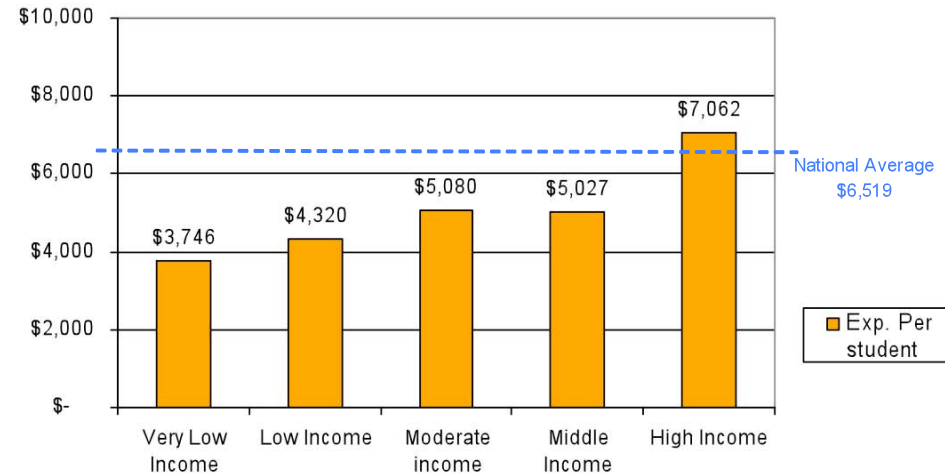
California: \$4,919



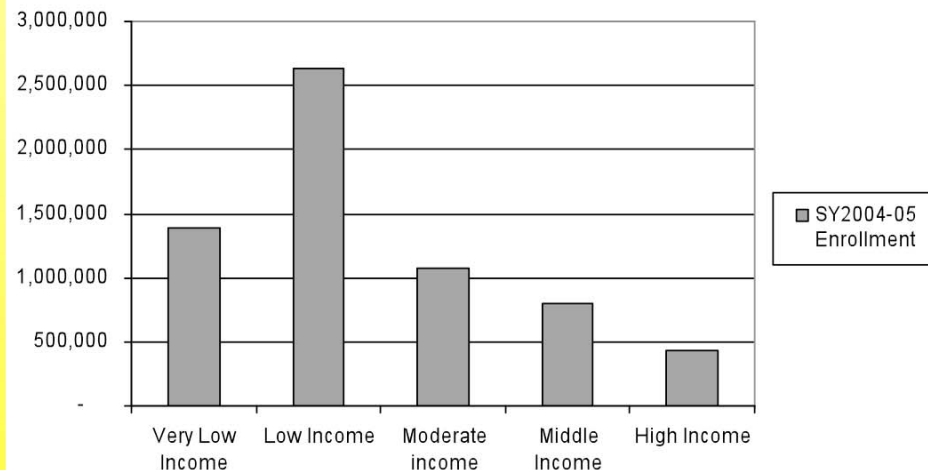
Meeting California's Need: Inequities in School Facility Expenditures

Lowest income
school districts
spent the least
on facilities
(1995-2004)

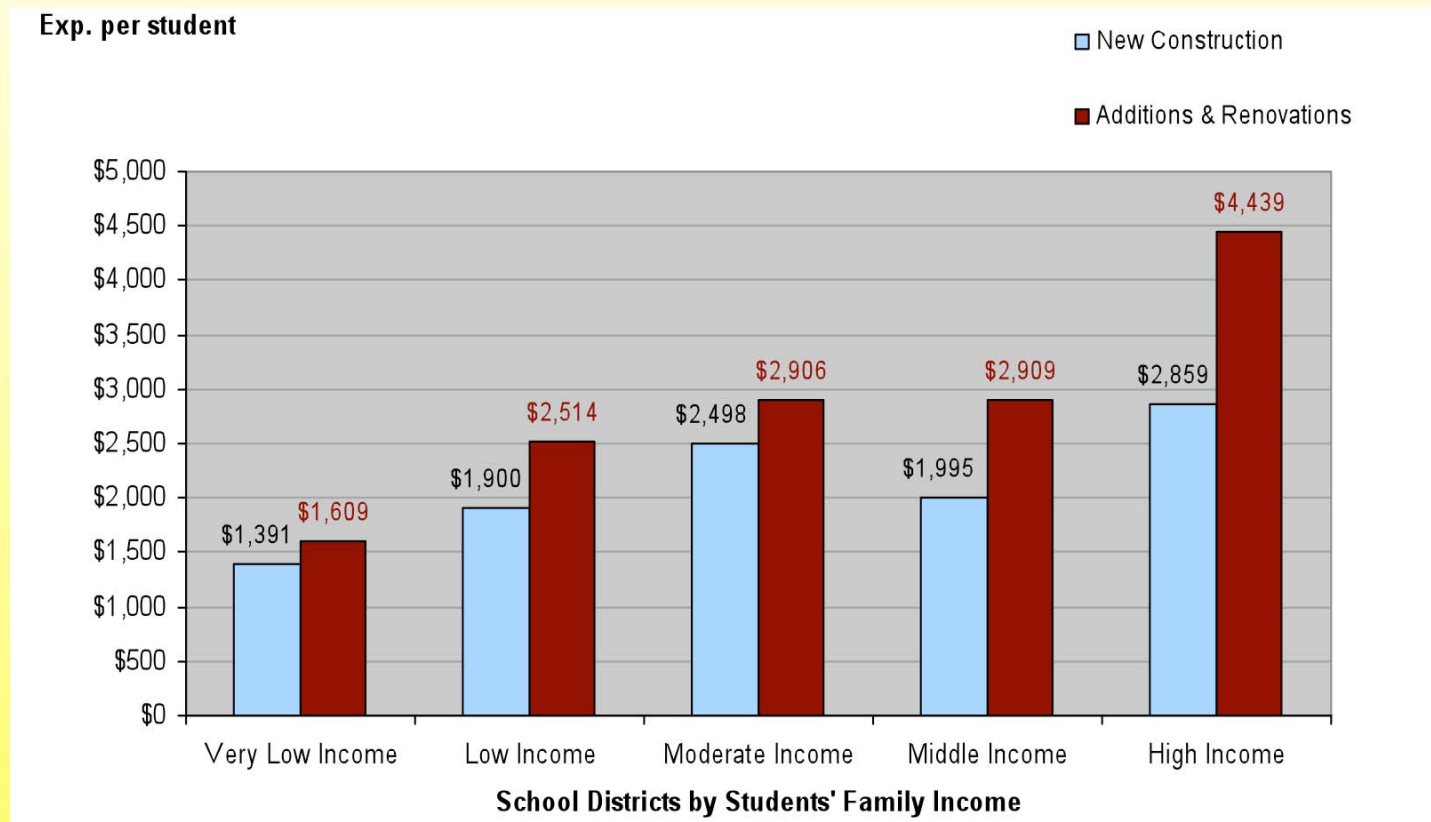
Construction Spending per Student by Family Income



Number of Student by Family Income



Meeting California's Need: Inequities in School Facility Expenditures



Disparity greater on spending on improvements to
existing schools

Why the Inequities Matter:

What we know about the importance of school facilities



- Facility quality impacts students' experiences in school and ultimately their educational achievement



- Green buildings promote efficient use of public resources



- Quality school buildings support community vitality
- School facilities affect land use, growth, and transportation

High Quality Schools for a Sustainable California: Policy Recommendations

1. Establish a vision and policy framework to connect:

- High quality educational outcomes
- Community reinvestment
- Sustainable regional growth
- Sound infrastructure investment

2. Ensure accountability and equity in state school facility funding

- Establish database on facilities, conditions, spending
- Assess state allocation along equity lines

High Quality Schools for a Sustainable California: Policy Recommendations

3. Align facility funding with educational priorities

- Close facility condition gap
- Support teachers' working conditions
- Funding model shouldn't discourage small schools

4. Incentive local agency collaborative planning

- Incentivize joint planning and siting
- Incentivize co-location and joint use

High Quality Schools for a Sustainable California: Policy Recommendations

5. Conduct outcome evaluation

- What are we getting for our \$80 billion?
- What design choices improve school quality?

6. Evaluate SFP Funding Model

- Is the per-pupil model getting us what we want?
- Are we building high quality schools?
- Funding guidelines and education goals disconnected

- **Center for Cities & Schools** •

Jeff Vincent, Deputy Director
jvincent@berkeley.edu

<http://citiesandschools.berkeley.edu>

Institute of Urban and Regional Development
University of California, Berkeley