



Timothy P. Cahill
Chairman, State Treasurer

Katherine P. Craven
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors, Massachusetts School Building Authority
From: Katherine P. Craven, Executive Director
Date: July 28, 2010
RE: 2010 Needs Survey Update

The bulk of on-site visits for the 2010 Needs Survey were completed on July 2, 2010. Design and engineering professionals, averaging more than 130 school assessments per week, have collected data on the current building conditions, maintenance practices, general environment and capacity at approximately 1,750 schools in 324 districts across the Commonwealth.

The data collected has been reviewed on an on-going basis throughout the assessment phase to ensure accuracy and consistency. The MSBA continues to work with its consultant STV, Inc. to identify and resolve any remaining data discrepancies. Although the MSBA has conducted a preliminary review of the information, the in-depth analysis of the data will begin after the quality assurance process is complete.

In the meantime, the MSBA has developed and refined a scoring methodology that rates individual schools on three bases: building conditions, general environment and space utilization. The building conditions score is the most analogous to the 2006 Needs Survey rating and is generated by looking at the conditions of seven site and eighteen building systems. The general environment rating takes into account the things that make a school building a pleasant place in which to spend the day including, but not limited to, daylighting, the presence of essential core spaces, adequate classroom size, capacity,

technology, maintenance practices and accessibility. The space utilization rating will identify the schools that may have above average utilization as well as those that may be under-utilized. The MSBA will use traditional data points including gross square feet per student and students per classroom in this analysis, but will also look to more qualitative information gathered during the on-site visits such as the number of non-traditional classrooms in use, the use of hallways as storage, the number of lunch seatings in the cafeteria, the originally designed grade configuration and other factors in order to generate a utilization rating for individual schools.

It is anticipated that a final report summarizing the 2010 Needs Survey findings will be released this fall.