

# School Survey

## Frequently Asked Questions – General

### **Q: What is the School Survey?**

A: The School Survey is a statewide assessment of the general facility conditions of public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth. The MSBA sent design and engineering professionals to each school to evaluate several key factors, including building conditions, general environment, capacity, and maintenance.

### **Q: Why is the School Survey important?**

A: The MSBA's enabling statute requires the MSBA to "perform or commission a needs survey to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and other capital needs for schools in the commonwealth." The School Survey is designed to help the MSBA understand how the needs of individual school districts fit within the statewide spectrum of need. The data collected during the School Survey is critical to the MSBA's efforts to ensure fair and equitable funding of school construction, renovation, and repair projects across the Commonwealth.

### **Q: How many schools were involved?**

A: The MSBA evaluated all public elementary, middle, and high schools in the Commonwealth that may be eligible for a grant from the MSBA under Chapter 70B of the Massachusetts General Laws. The School Survey included site visits to 1,548 buildings across 1,446 campuses and the compilation of existing data at approximately 121 additional schools currently in the MSBA's program pipeline. Site visits were not conducted at schools in the MSBA's Core Program pipeline unless construction had been completed.

### **Q: Is it the same as the Core Program Statement of Interest Senior Study process?**

A: No. The School Survey was conducted at school facilities statewide, not just those for which a Statement of Interest has been submitted to the MSBA. The goal of the School Survey is to assess the physical condition, general academic environment, and capacity utilization of school facilities. Senior Studies and Facilities Assessments are more in-depth architectural and engineering studies of school facilities for which a district has submitted a Statement of Interest.

### **Q: Do the results of the School Survey impact a project for which a district has already submitted a Statement of Interest?**

A: No. The School Survey was conducted to help the MSBA establish the current general conditions of the Commonwealth's public elementary and secondary schools. Assessments were

completed during the 2024-25 school year. While the data collected will help the MSBA understand and prioritize needs in both the short and the long term, it will not change the overall review process for projects that have already submitted a Statement of Interest.

**Q: What if I have not yet submitted a Statement of Interest? Does the School Survey change that process?**

A: No. The data collected during the School Survey is only one component in the MSBA's decision on whether to fund individual school construction and renovation projects and, by itself, does not provide the basis for funding eligibility. Districts will still be required to submit a Statement of Interest in order for a school to be considered for funding under the MSBA's grant program.

**Q: Do schools receive a "score" based on this process?**

A: Each school receives comparative ratings that will help the MSBA and districts understand where individual school buildings fit within the statewide spectrum of building conditions. The ratings are only one component in the MSBA's decision on whether to fund individual school construction and renovation projects, and by itself, do not provide the basis for funding eligibility.

**Q: What are the results of the School Survey? How will the contents be shared?**

A: The MSBA has analyzed the data collected by the assessors and with the consultant developed a comprehensive report summarizing the findings of the School Survey. The report is available on the MSBA website, accessed through this link [here](#).

The forthcoming 2025 School Survey Interactive Dashboard will be accessible on this page as well.

**Q: Is this School Survey different from previous School Surveys?**

A: The School Survey is a similar assessment to the one conducted in 2016. Some of the questions have been updated, while additional information was collected to further understand heating and cooling systems; however, the objective remained the same to gather a statewide inventory of public-school facilities across the Commonwealth.

**Q: Who can I contact for specific questions?**

A: For any questions about the 2025 School Survey Report, please use the Contact Us form, available [here](#).