
SECTION 6.1 MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY (MSBA)

BACKGROUND

In May of 2006, the MSBA published Draft Regulations and in early September final regulations were promulgated. The work of this study was developed adhering to the new regulations, where regulations exist. The MSBA has not yet developed space standards for renovation projects. Prior to moving forward with proposed projects, it will be necessary to work with the MSBA to determine that the space requirements are acceptable.

NEEDS SURVEY

Leading up to the spring of 2006, MSBA conducted a review of all school buildings within the Commonwealth. The intent of this effort was to develop baseline data about the general physical condition of the school facilities. The results of the study were published in April of this year.

Schools were rated from 1 to 4.

Rating 1	Building in good condition with few or no building systems needing attention.
Rating 2	The building is generally in good condition, however a few building systems may need attention.
Rating 3	The building is in fair to poor condition and some building systems may need to be repaired or replaced.
Rating 4	The building is in poor condition and a possible candidate for major renovation or replacement.

The Stow schools were rated as follows:

School	Rating
Pompositticut Elementary	2
Center Elementary	3
Hale Middle	1

SMMA's investigation of the physical conditions of the schools suggests that the state ratings may not adequately represent the actual conditions.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM (SOI)

The MSBA has established the Statement of Interest Form as the first step in the Application Process. The purpose of the SOI is to ascertain from communities whether they believe they have any deficiencies in their school facility that meets one or more of the statutory priorities.

The priorities are as follows:

- (1.) Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists; as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (2.) Elimination of existing severe overcrowding; as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (3.) Prevention of loss of accreditation; as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (4.) Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments, which must be substantiated; as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (5.) Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in any schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse; as determined in the judgment of Authority;
- (6.) Short term enrollment growth; as determined in the judgment of the Authority;
- (7.) Replacement or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; as determined in the judgments of the Authority;
- (8.) Transition from court-ordered and board approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts; as determined in the judgment of the Authority.

The Stow Building Task Force Committee voted to submit an SOI for the Pompositticut and Center Elementary Schools. The Committee, the School Administration and SMMA worked together to evaluate the elementary school issues with respect to the SOI Priorities.

The Committee presented the Statement of Interest Form to the Nashoba Regional School Committee on April 5, 2007 and the Stow Board of Selectmen on April 10, 2007. At each meeting, the respective boards approved the SOI. It has since been submitted to the MSBA. The submitted SOI's are included in Appendix D