

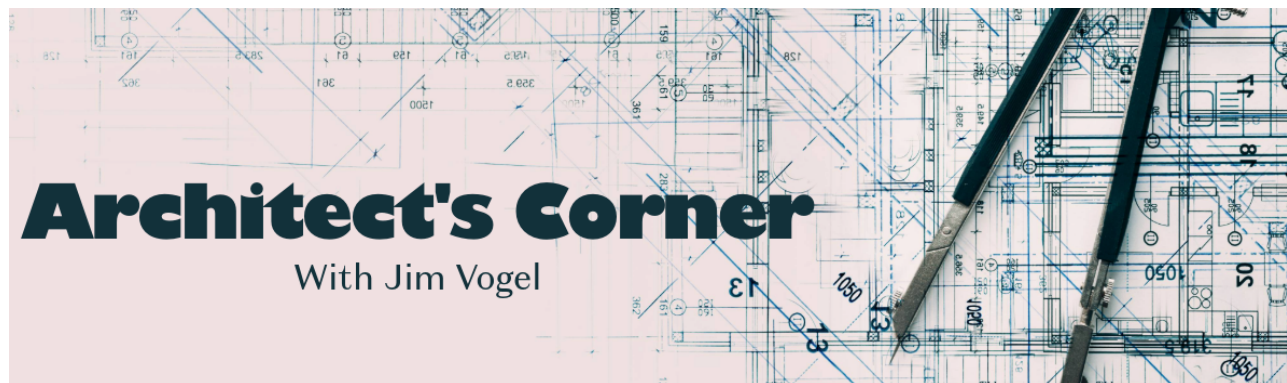


Step Into Spring with SASI!

Welcome to the spring 2026 edition of our Supporting America's School Infrastructure (SASI) Grant Program newsletter: The SASI Blueprint! As we continue to support schools across Pennsylvania, we remain focused on sharing timely updates, practical guidance, and key insights to help you navigate evolving requirements and priorities. Inside, you'll find important information, resources, and reminders designed to support your ongoing work and planning efforts.

For PA EdVentures & PDE Bulletin Board Subscribers: This is the first edition of our **quarterly** SASI Blueprint. As a current subscriber, you have automatically been added to this new mailing list. If you would like to opt to unsubscribe and would **not** like to receive these communications, please click the Unsubscribe button below.

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Suggestions for Preventing Mold in School Buildings When Closed for the Summer

Building Preparations:

Before the school year ends, perform an overall facility inspection and implement a corrective work plan.

- Fix leaks immediately: Repair all roof, plumbing, mechanical, window, and door leaks.
- Insulate pipes: Cover cold water pipes with insulation to prevent condensation from dripping onto porous materials like ceiling tiles and drywall.
- HVAC upkeep: Clean condensate pans and make sure drip lines are clear, so all water flows away from the building.
- Declutter: Encourage staff to remove and/or to properly store all paper products, such as cardboard boxes and book stacks, since they can readily absorb moisture.

Implement a Summer Inspection Program:

When buildings are unoccupied, leaks can go unnoticed for a long period of time, causing significant water/moisture infiltration.

- Weekly walkthroughs: Assign staff to perform weekly inspections of classrooms, restrooms, mechanical rooms, and utility areas to check for musty odors, water stains, or leaks.
- Target hotspots: Pay close attention to areas around sinks, drinking fountains, and pipes where condensation often occurs.
- Use technology: Utilize moisture meters or infrared cameras to detect hidden moisture behind walls or under flooring.

Manage Maintenance and Repair Projects Carefully:

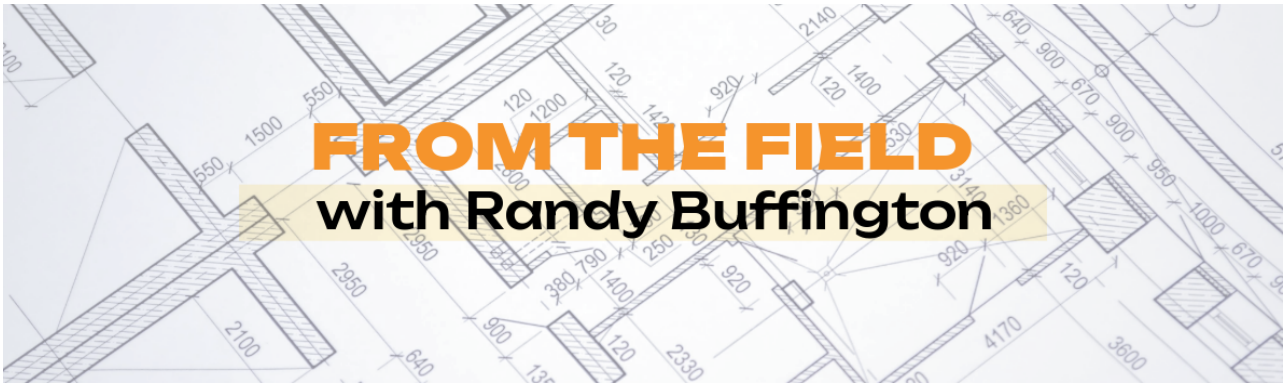
Summer maintenance activities themselves can accidentally introduce moisture into the building.

- Floor cleaning: If carpets are cleaned or floors are waxed, use high-speed fans and portable dehumidifiers to ensure surfaces are completely dry within 24 – 48 hours.
- Painting: Schedule painting early in the summer to allow moisture from the paint to evaporate while the building is still being actively monitored.
- Loading docks & receiving areas: Minimize the time doors are open for receiving and removing materials.

Control Humidity and Airflow:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends maintaining indoor relative humidity below 60%, and ideally between 30 – 50%.

- HVAC settings: Don’t shut off the HVAC system entirely to save costs. Instead, use a “summer lay-up” strategy where systems are cycled for several hours daily, and thermostats are set no higher than 76°.
- Dehumidifiers: Use commercial-grade or desiccant dehumidifiers in high-moisture areas like basements, locker rooms, and gyms. Make sure they are set to drain properly to prevent water buildup.
- Minimize outside air: Keep all exterior windows and doors closed when air conditioning is running, especially if the outdoor humidity exceeds 65%, to prevent warm, moist air from condensing on cooler indoor surfaces.



End of the Year Planning for School Facilities

Best Practices Q&A with Randy Buffington, Director of Operations, South York County School District

When do you begin planning for summer maintenance and projects?

Depending on the size of the project, design time (if needed), and equipment/material with long lead times (if needed), planning for summer maintenance and projects may start years in advance.

Type of Project	Timing
Major Construction/Renovation	Several years ahead of summer
Minor Construction/Renovation & capital improvement projects	1+ years ahead of summer
Major Maintenance/Custodial projects	1 year ahead of summer
Minor Maintenance/Custodial projects	6 months ahead of summer

Certainly, the summer break is an excellent time to perform maintenance and have projects completed.

How do you prioritize what gets done over the summer versus during the school year?

When possible, schedule projects during the summer. Many projects result in dirt, dust, odor, and noise, which are highly disrupted when students are in class trying to learn. Security issues, such as clearances and site access, also must be addressed when projects are conducted during the school year.

However, sometimes projects are urgent and cannot wait until the summer. When this occurs, consider whether the issue must be addressed immediately (i.e., safety concerns) or whether it can be delayed until an extended break.

What's your approach to making sure projects are completed before staff and students return?

Do not schedule the impossible and allow adequate time for summer cleaning and classroom setup time.

What's one lesson you've learned from a summer that didn't go as planned?

Communicate to various stakeholders about the project before it starts, during the project, and as it is completed. Do not wait to communicate until a major problem hits.

What best practices do you have for schools to prepare for the end of the year?

(1) Move building custodial staff out of project areas at the beginning of summer and bring back the entire custodial staff at the end to help get the building ready.

(2) Empower maintenance staff to help manage the process.

What questions should schools be asking at this time of year?

Questions will be dependent on the project. It is always good to anticipate common problems and have contingency plans. For example, weather has a huge impact on exterior projects (e.g., replacing roofs or converting a natural-grass stadium field to an artificial-grass stadium field). In these situations, ask yourself:

- If the roof is not completed by the time school starts due to weather, are we going to require the contractors to work second shift because of the odors and noise associated with the project?
- If the stadium field project is not completed before the first home game due to weather, are we going to play the first few games away?
- Basically, if the project is not completed on time, how are we going to move forward with school opening?



Highlights from the Bureau of Food and Nutrition (BFN): Use of Child Nutrition Program/Nonprofit School Food Service Account (NSFSA) Funds

Schools and School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in School Nutrition Programs (SNP) are able to purchase cafeteria and kitchen equipment using their Child Nutrition Program/Nonprofit School Food Service Account (NSFSA) funds. The equipment must be reasonable, allocable, necessary, and properly procured following federal, state, and local procurement procedures, as applicable.

A purchase of a piece of equipment that is \$10,000 or more is referred to as a capital expenditure. Capital expenditure purchases require pre-approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Food

and Nutrition (PDE, BFN). However, BFN has established a pre-approved list of frequently requested equipment. This list can be found on CN PEARS Download Forms, which can be accessed by certain employees in the Food Service department. Equipment with a unit cost of \$10,000 or more that does not appear on the pre-approved list or appears on the list but will also be used solely for the SNP must be pre-approved by BFN via a Capital Expenditure Request on CN PEARS.

BFN’s review and approval provide reasonable assurance that the cost is allowable and necessary for program purposes. Revenues received by the NSFSA are to be used only for the operation or improvement of such food service.

SFAs requesting to use NSFSA funds to pay for capital improvement costs will be denied. The NSFSA can be used to purchase food service equipment for sole SNP use, but approval will not be provided for associated costs (minor or major) when the equipment is being purchased as part of a renovation or what appears to be a renovation (including a construction project). This includes costs for electrical, mechanical, construction, plumbing, architect, or engineering fees, bonds, insurance, etc. A renovation is considered a capital improvement. Therefore, in a renovation, only approved equipment will be considered an allowable cost to the NSFSA.

Minor (small) construction, such as localized electrical work, plumbing, replacement flooring, removal or installation of a minor wall, etc., when necessary to accommodate a new, singular piece of equipment, may be allowable. These requests are reviewed and approved or denied on a case-by-case basis.

Email general questions to Eliza Hanft at ehanft@pa.gov.

Updates from the Office for School Climate and Well-Being

Connections Corner: A Resource for Families, School Personnel, and Community Partners

The Office for School Climate and Well-Being has created [Connections Corner](#) as a resource for parents and guardians, school personnel, and community partners to reach out with any questions or concerns. Learn more using the Connections Corner button!

Connections Corner

Important Upcoming Due Dates

Please mark your calendars for the following required deadlines for the [Annual School Safety Reports](#).

Date	Item
June 30	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
July 31	Fire and Security Drills ACS
July 31	Bullying Policy
July 31	Safe Schools ACS Report

PA School Climate Survey Windows

Plan ahead for participation! The PA School Climate Survey is offered during three windows each year:

March - June
September - November
December - February

Please plan accordingly to ensure your school community has the opportunity to participate during the appropriate window.

Student Assistance Program (SAP) Update

Key reminders: The PDE4092 is due **June 30, 2026**. Reporting data will become available in October.

Free SAP Training is still available. Please refer to the **[Training Calendar on PNSAS](#)** website for upcoming professional learning opportunities.

As we approach the end of the school year, some school-based services may no longer be available for students receiving SAP supports.

Recommended Action for Teams: Consider reaching out to parents and guardians to discuss optional supports that may be available during the summer months. Many students may benefit from continued access to community-based supports, school-connected resources, local recreational and enrichment activities, and youth programs and summer services.

Summer Support Planning for Families

Please consider sharing the following information with families before the school year ends:

- Who to Contact During the Summer
 - Provide families with contact information for appropriate school or community personnel if concerns arise.
- 24/7 Crisis Resources
 - Share crisis hotline and emergency support information, including 988, that is accessible at all times.
- Reconnect in the Fall
 - Encourage parents and guardians to reach back out to the SAP team in the fall if they would like continued support.

Information from PDE's School Services Office

School districts and intermediate units must update their 2026-27 administrative information in the Education Names and Addresses (EdNA) system and notify the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) of changes by July 31, 2026.

The official record for local education agencies (LEAs) is maintained in EdNA. Current information enables accurate allocation of funds and efficient data submission and communication between PDE and LEAs.

Please view the instructions for updating/revising your LEA's information regarding chief administrators, school names and addresses, changes in school grade configurations, and reporting of alteration/curtailment of programs. Note: These instructions only pertain to school districts and intermediate units.

SCHOOL OPENINGS/CLOSINGS/RECONFIGURATIONS, BUILDING CLOSURES

Changes to school configuration that require review and approval by PDE include opening/closing a school building to K-12 educational use, and closing, opening, renaming, or reconfiguring a school (i.e., changing the grade levels of a school).

The process of reviewing and approving these changes requires the school district or intermediate unit to submit the following within the Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal (FRCP):

1. A signed letter from the chief school administrator including a summary of the proposed change(s) along with the current school configuration, and the number of students in the current and proposed configurations;
2. Board affirmation statement or board minutes documenting the local board's approval of those changes; and
3. Evidence of the required public hearing, if closing a building to K-12 educational use for the school year

Detailed instructions for submitting these changes are available on the [School Reconfigurations webpage](#).

Requests for the upcoming 2026-27 school year will be processed beginning May 1, 2026, and accepted until the deadline of July 31, 2026.

Accessing the School Reconfiguration Application

The first step to gaining access to the portal is to ensure that you are a registered user on the PDE portal. If you are not a registered user, your school entity's Local Security Administrator can add/remove users in [MyPDESuite](#). Instructions for adding users and a step-by-step guide for using the FRCPP are available on the [Accessing the FRCPP webpage](#).

For technical issues with accessing the portal, please contact the FRCPP resource account at RA-EDFRCPP@pa.gov.

DISTRICT INFORMATION, CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, AND COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Information on chief school administrators that is published in the annual Education Directory is taken from the EdNA system. As such, it is critical for PDE to have updated information for chief school administrators, including a current email address and emergency contact information.

Emails, addresses, and emergency contact information can be updated through EdNA without additional paperwork. District-level changes such as addresses, phone numbers, and web addresses should be updated in EdNA by each LEA. PDE staff will review the information submitted prior to it becoming available in the public EdNA system.

To update the chief school administrator or other commissioned roles, please follow the directions found on the [Commissioned School Officers webpage](#).

ALTERATION AND/OR CURTAILMENT OF PROGRAMS

Act 82 of 2012 amended section 1124 of the Pennsylvania School Code (24 P.S. § 11-1124) such that alterations or curtailments of programs under section 112(a)(2) no longer require PDE approval. However, LEAs must notify PDE of any alterations or curtailments that are being made under section 1124(a)(2) that may result in the suspension/furlough of professional staff.

Questions may be directed to RA-PDE-SchoolService@pa.gov.

Questions regarding chief school administrators and commissioned officers can be directed to RA-EDFRCPP@pa.gov.

PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD)'s School Safety and Security Reminders

The PCCD School Safety and Security Committee provides resources and a helpful set of Physical Assessment Criteria in a checklist format to assist schools in reviewing the physical security elements of their school buildings. The [Physical Assessment Criteria](#) are available in both Word and PDF format.

For schools that are interested in finding a qualified outside assessor to complete this type of assessment, PCCD offers a [Provider Registry](#). Schools may also reach out to the [PA State Police Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Team \(RVAT\)](#) to inquire about physical building assessments.

PA Department of Agriculture (PDA)'s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Pennsylvania Schools

Since 2003 school districts, intermediate units, career and technical schools, and child care facilities in

Pennsylvania have been using IPM to keep facilities safe and pest free. IPM is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way which minimizes economic, health and environmental risks. By using IPM to prevent pests in schools, student exposure to pesticides is reduced, allergen exposure is reduced, and the potential of pests spreading harmful pathogens is reduced.

Acts 35 and 36 of 2002 mandate schools to adopt IPM plans and notify students, parents, and staff when and where pesticides are used on school grounds. A brief summary of school-specific pesticide use regulations can be found on the [Department of Agriculture website](#). The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) and The Penn State University offer free training and assistance in the development of IPM plans and practices. To request more information or learn more about free training about IPM in schools, contact Don DeMackiewicz at c-ddemacki@pa.gov or visit [The Pennsylvania State University](#).

The [IPM for Schools: A How to Manual](#) can be downloaded for free.



PA Department of Community and Economic Development: Solar for Schools Grant Program

The [Solar for Schools Grant Program](#), established by Act of 68 of 2024 and administered by DCED, provides grant funding to reduce the cost of implementing solar energy systems in schools. Eligible entities include school districts, intermediate units, charter schools, a school for education of the deaf or the blind, area career and technical schools, specific trade and technical schools, and community colleges. Grantees may use funding to purchase and install equipment, permit fees, energy storage, and utility interconnection. The program will accept applications on a rolling basis until all funds are exhausted.

Contact Devin Gray at devigray@pa.gov with questions.

PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): WIIN 2107 Grant Program

Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing & Reduction Grant Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has federal grant funding to help eligible public schools and public or private child care facilities address lead in drinking water. Funding may be used to purchase and install hydration stations, point-of-use devices, or replacement faucets for water fixtures used primarily for consumption or food preparation. Eligible applicants must have appropriate drinking water sample results showing an exceedance of the remediation trigger level (5 parts per billion) within 36 months of the date of their application to quality. More information is available on the [WIIN 2107: Voluntary School and Child Care Facility Lead Testing and Reduction Grant website](#).



The Compliance Compass

Guiding Districts in the Right Direction

School District Building Expansion

If a school district is considering a new construction project or a renovation that may increase an existing building's size by more than 20%, as measured by architectural area, it is essential to understand and comply with the requirements of Act 34 of 1973 (Act 34).

Central to this determination are the annually updated per-pupil cost limits issued by PDE and tied to national construction cost trends. These limits are used to calculate the district's Aggregate Building Expenditure Standard, which represents the maximum allowable project cost without triggering a referendum.

If a proposed project exceeds the Aggregate Building Expenditure Standard, the district must either seek voter approval through a referendum or reduce project scope to remain within the limit. Through required public hearings, detailed cost disclosures, and a structured calculation methodology, Act 34 ensures that communities are informed, costs are justified, and large capital investments are aligned with both educational needs and taxpayer expectations.

Districts can use the [Act 34 Hearing Checklists](#) created by PDE's Division of School Facilities to verify the following:

- All the required statutory elements are included;
- Cost figures are reconciled across documents;
- Financing assumptions are consistent;
- Dates and timelines meet regulatory requirements; and
- Maximum project and construction costs match school board resolutions.

Questions may be directed to Erin Derr, PDE School Facilities Advisor, at jder@pa.gov or 717-787-6016.



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