

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 070807)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing City Council's Committee on Education and Committee on the Environment to hold joint public hearings to investigate the steps the School District of Philadelphia is currently taking regarding the use of green technologies in the construction and renovation of school buildings and to explore the feasibility of using such technologies in all future school construction and renovations.

WHEREAS, Most students in the School District of Philadelphia spend their days in conventionally built and aging schools that are unhealthy and affect their ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, Conventional schools are designed typically to meet building code requirements which set minimum standards and are usually not designed to provide comfortable, healthy and productive environments for students and teachers¹; and

WHEREAS, Studies have found a link between improved student and teacher health and productivity and green building performance standards. For example, improved ventilation and indoor air quality reduce the incidence of asthma and of a number of other respiratory illnesses, including the common cold and influenza and as a result, reduce absenteeism among students and teachers; and

WHEREAS, Green school designs are based on the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for schools which emphasize classroom acoustics, master planning, indoor air quality, mold prevention, energy efficiency, and water conservation; and

WHEREAS, LEED certified green buildings use 30% to 50% less energy and 40% less water and reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 38%; and

¹ Much of the data contained in this Resolution has been derived from a study entitled, "Greening America's Schools Costs and Benefits," by Gregory Kats and from "LEED for Schools Hawaii Build and Buy Green Conference and Expo, May 9, 2007," by Katrina Shum Miller.

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WHEREAS, To date, there are approximately 40 LEED certified schools in 19 states and over 300 schools registered for LEED certification; and

WHEREAS, Some states provide financial incentives for school districts that achieve LEED certification, among them Pennsylvania, which through the enactment of House Bill 628 in 2005, provides financial incentives for school districts that achieve silver, gold or platinum LEED certification; and

WHEREAS, The School District of Philadelphia has achieved LEED certification for the Microsoft School of the Future, the George Washington Carver School of Engineering and Science and the Barry School; and

WHEREAS, It is important for the health and safety of our students and for their educational achievement that the School District strive to achieve LEED certification for all school construction and renovations; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council hereby authorizes the Committee on Education and the Committee on the Environment to hold joint public hearings to investigate the steps the School District of Philadelphia is currently taking regarding the use of green technologies in the construction and renovation of school buildings and to explore the feasibility of using such technologies in all future school construction and renovations.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-seventh of September, 2007.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Reynolds Brown

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Goode, Greenlee, DiCicco, Rizzo, Ramos, Savage, Blackwell and Kenney