

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Building a Strong, Competitive 21st Century Economy

CREATING JOBS BY MODERNIZING SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

School buildings across the country are literally crumbling. Recent studies estimate that hundreds of billions of dollars are needed to bring schools into good condition, and that 75 percent of schools are in various stages of disrepair. Like other infrastructure projects, modernizing schools will create new, construction jobs while ensuring that students can learn and teachers can teach in safe, healthy, technologically up-to-date, and energy-efficient learning environments.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will put Americans back to work quickly while bringing our schools and colleges into the 21st century. The legislation will:

Create new jobs in construction and other industries

- Provides funds to repair and modernize existing public school and higher education facilities, as part of the \$53.6 billion state stabilization fund. School districts will receive these funds through state and federal education formulas. Funds could be used to:
 - Improve the teaching and learning climate;
 - Make schools energy efficient, which could save taxpayers billions in energy costs;
 - Replace light systems and security doors;
 - Repair heating and ventilation systems;
 - Bring facilities into compliance with fire, health, and safety codes;
 - Make necessary modifications to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and
 - Eliminate exposure to mold, asbestos, mildew and lead-based paint.

Update schools with 21st century technology

- Provide \$650 million for Enhancing Education Through Technology (EdTech) – a program which provides grants to schools to increase access to educational technology and further integrate technology into the classroom.

Create green, modern, state-of-the-art classrooms and schools

- Encourages that funds be used to support projects that meet green standards, including projects such as installing green roofs and installing renewable energy generation and heating systems.