

PHILOSOPHY

It is the intent of the Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), through the Office of Facilities Design and Construction, to build facilities that are cost effective in both initial cost and operation, that are easy to maintain, and that are an effective tool in the delivery of educational instruction to the children of Duval County.

The office of Facilities Design and Construction believes that design excellence is cost independent and therefore demands quality design on all projects, regardless of cost. The DCPS is interested less in "signature" buildings than in quality buildings which reflect thoughtful consideration of materials, systems, and layout, while maintaining attractiveness in a straightforward manner with a minimum of ornamentation and special treatments. ***All DCPS projects,(New Construction, Renovation and Remodeling and Equipment replacement projects) shall be design at a minimum to meet Energy Star rating and approved system. The district would like to have all buildings at the very least follow LEED for schools design principals and when applicable LEED certificated.*** The highest priority should be placed on the development of the interior learning environment with full attention given to the development of appropriate casework, outlets, lighting, etc.

In developing a design solution, the DP shall consider not only the requirements of the Educational Specification for the specific project, but also these facts for all projects:

1. Maintenance operations are traditionally under funded and the DP should consider this in the building layout, material selection, utilization of standard building materials, and evaluation of all systems and equipment.
2. No matter how well behaved, a large number of high energy young people can be a truly destructive force. Therefore, all materials selections should be carefully evaluated for durability, maintainability, and vandal resistance during the design process. This is especially true in areas where visual supervision is not constant--toilet rooms, etc.
3. Shortage of maintenance dollars also means that there is a shortage of maintenance personnel to perform necessary services. This should also be considered during the design process in order to make routine maintenance, as well as repair, as easy and as infrequent as possible. Careful consideration should be given to service life, access, standard sizes of replacement items such as filters etc.

The Office of Facilities Design and Construction considers the design process to be a team effort, coordinated by the DCPS Facilities Project Manager but including the School Principal, Division of Instruction, Plant Services, and Design and Construction. The DP shall consult with all parties for input and information but shall at all times keep the Design Division Project Manager informed and involved in all decisions.

NOTE: The maximum use of CMU construction relating to interior wall applications for DCPS projects is the # 1 maintenance requirements on all projects. Maintenance does not consider this to be on the table for value engineering (VE), recommend other aesthetically oriented VE options.

END OF SECTION PHILOSOPHY