

ACLU Maryland

EDUCATION ADVOCATE

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BALTIMORE'S SCHOOL FACILITY CRISIS:

No Air Conditioning, No Heat, No Excuses

Students, parents, and advocates, including the ACLU of Maryland, have been calling on state and city elected officials to work together to solve Baltimore's school facility crisis for nearly two decades.

Just eight months after freezing temperatures caused dozens of old heating systems in schools to break down, tens of thousands of City students missed more instruction time due to the lack of air conditioning. The fact that these inhumane and harmful conditions affect mostly Black children is not due simply to chance. **Black and Brown students, families, and communities in Baltimore have been and continue to be disadvantaged by a system that deprives them of their basic needs.** If elected officials believe that all children's lives are valued, then it is time for the system to be redesigned to ensure they get what they deserve.

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Are you a parent, student, or teacher who has been impacted by heating, air-conditioning, or other building issues in school?

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Current Status of the 163 School Buildings in Baltimore



21st Century Schools Program

Up to 28 schools will be completely rebuilt or fully renovated by 2021 with an estimated \$1 billion paid for equally by the City, City Schools, and State.



Schools in Poor Condition

68 schools are in poor condition and most have been deemed unsalvageable. Until more funding becomes available for a full rehabilitation, they will be completely dependent on the very limited state and city capital funding to remain minimally functional. Typical deficiencies for these schools include roofs that leak, faulty boilers or HVAC systems, and broken fire alarm systems. Further, most of these schools have major structural issues, which can lead to mold, insect, and rodent infestations.



Schools in Fair Condition

The 25 schools in fair condition need moderate renovations. In the meantime, these schools still require significant capital dollars to address health and safety deficiencies such as broken and antiquated mechanical systems, new roofs, and secure doors/windows.



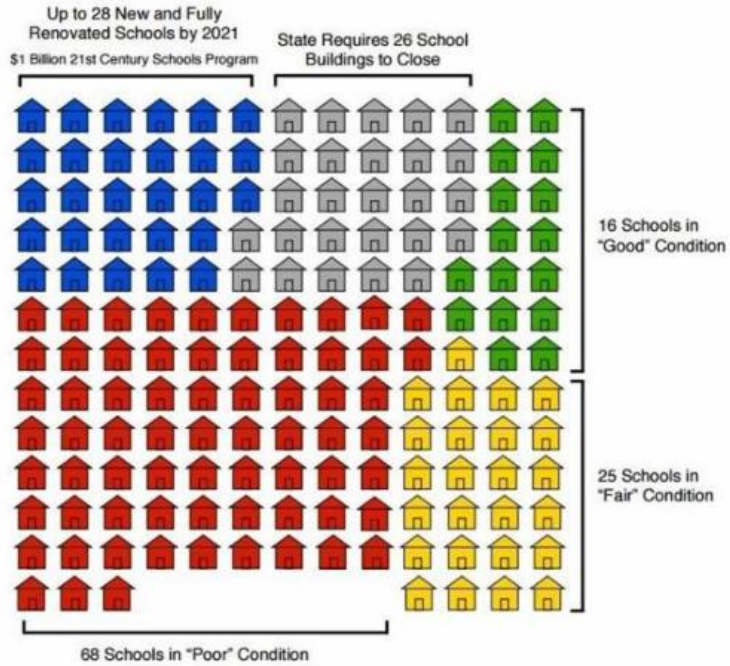
Schools in Good Condition

The 16 schools in good condition require general maintenance, which is supported by the operating budget.



Schools Slated to Close

Given the loss of thousands of students over the past two decades, the state has mandated that City Schools "right size" its inventory by closing schools. This will reduce maintenance costs in the long run.



Source: State of School Facilities, Baltimore City Public Schools, Jacobs Engineering, June 2012; Annual Report on the Progress of Replacements, Renovations, and Maintenance of Baltimore City Public Schools, 21st Century School Buildings Program, January 15, 2016

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