

Southfield Public Schools Board Policy

Sustainable Design Standards for New Construction and Major Renovations

I. Purpose

All new facilities and major renovation projects funded through capital bonds or other sources shall incorporate environmentally sustainable design and operational practices.

Incorporating sustainable design into new school buildings supports our educational mission by creating healthier, safer, and more inspiring environments that improve student learning, reduce absenteeism, and model responsible stewardship. These spaces also serve as teaching tools, reinforcing lessons in science, sustainability, and civic responsibility.

Sustainable design is also fiscally responsible—reducing long-term operational costs, improving energy efficiency, and helping the district make the most of public investments.

Our district's efforts are strengthened by partnerships like the DTE Commercial New Construction (CNC) Program, which provides energy modeling, bundled energy conservation strategies, and verification support to guide savings-focused design decisions.

II. Standards

1. **Energy Efficiency:** Projects shall prioritize energy-efficient mechanical systems, including high-efficiency HVAC, demand control ventilation, LED lighting with daylighting and occupancy controls, and variable frequency drives (VFDs) on pumps and fans to reduce energy use and operating costs.
2. **Healthy Materials:** Buildings shall be constructed with materials that support healthy indoor air quality and include recycled or locally sourced content when feasible.
3. **Recycling Infrastructure:** All new buildings shall include designated space and infrastructure for indoor recycling stations and exterior enclosures for both waste and recyclables.
4. **Water and Natural Resources:** Projects shall incorporate water conservation features and maximize the use of natural lighting and ventilation wherever practical.
5. **Renewable Readiness:** New construction shall include infrastructure to support future installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and electric vehicle charging stations for both buses and personal vehicles.
6. **Design Standards:** The district will strive to meet or exceed recognized green building standards such as LEED Silver or equivalent, when financially feasible. This aligns with

guidance from the Michigan Association of School Boards, which encourages school districts to use LEED-certified design and construction practices.

III. Oversight

The Board's Sustainability Committee shall receive regular updates on the sustainability features included in capital projects and ongoing facility improvements. The committee may make policy recommendations to the Board and help ensure alignment between project outcomes and the district's long-term sustainability goals.

The Operations Department shall continue to oversee project execution in accordance with this policy and relevant external guidance, including recommendations from utility companies and other professional consultants.

IV. Accountability and Review

The Superintendent or their designee shall ensure this policy is implemented across the district and shall report annually to the Board on sustainability-related features and progress in new construction and major renovation projects.

This policy shall be reviewed every three years, or as needed, to reflect technological advancements, local infrastructure changes, or updated district priorities.