

H.R. 2394: REBUILDING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT

Increase aid for school construction and renovation across the country

- [H.R. 2394](#) would allow the Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) to continue to aid through 2015 in renovating and also allow the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program to continue through 2015. The bill also includes an option to waive the historically required 10% match from private entities, and allow for new construction, to ensure that QZAB funds go to the school districts that need them instead of not being used.
- Qualified School Construction Bonds that are financing school construction projects building, modernizing in states across the country. These projects are generating jobs now and extension of the QSCB program will help school districts modernize schools and generate even more jobs.
- Over \$ 6.7 billion in QSCBs were used in 2010 and school districts have issued more than \$ 2 billion in QSCBs so far in 2011. Many other states have not been able to use QSCBs in 2011 because their allocations were fully used in 2009 and 2010. School districts in these states still have many school building renovation and repair projects that will generate jobs quickly if we can get more QSCB allocations authorized.
- The Council of the Great City Schools, the nation's primary coalition of large urban public school districts, projects that its 65-member school systems have about \$74.6 billion in facilities needs, including approximately \$17.9 billion in new construction needs, \$43.7 billion in repair and renovation needs, and some \$13.0 billion in deferred maintenance expenses. The districts project that they could spend approximately 21% of that total amount in the first year of aid or about \$15.6 billion--enough to provide over 200,000 construction jobs in one year.
- School modernization projects to generate jobs are plentiful in every state if we can just get the help in financing them. Estimates of accumulated deferred maintenance and repair nationally are at least \$270 billion. Improving school buildings and systems to meet 21st Century standards could exceed \$500 billion.
- Established in 1997 under the Taxpayers Relief Act, QZAB funds are allocated for rehabilitation or repair of school buildings, equipment, course development, and teacher training. Participating schools must be located in an empowerment zone or enterprise community or have the reasonable expectation that at least 35% of the students will be eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches. QSCB was launched in 2009 to give school districts funds for construction, rehabilitation, repairs for public school facilities or land acquisitions for new buildings. The American Federation of Teachers December 2008 report estimated that the total school infrastructure need across the 50 states had risen to \$254.6 billion.