

The purpose of a feasibility study is to provide an analysis that assists in the determination of whether it is more feasible to replace rather than renovate a school facility.

Such a determination includes considerations of efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and other factors associated with rehabilitation versus new construction. The study assists in determining whether rehabilitation is an unreasonable option when the benefits of new construction outweigh those of rehabilitation.

The study requires the SDA to weigh the costs and benefits of renovation vs. new construction and consider the reasonableness of each option in order for a decision to be made. The two scenarios outlined in the study must be considered individually and then compared based on these analytical factors.

The renovation approach included in the study provides limited renovations to the existing space and makes some improvements toward conformance with the District's current educational program needs. Importantly, however, renovation would not be able to entirely meet the needs of the educational program nor would it bring existing spaces to full conformance with the Department of Education's Facility Efficiency Standards (the FES). The renovation option in the feasibility study is priced at about \$6 million more than the new construction option. A full renovation project that would achieve total conformance to the program requirements and meet the FES is so cost prohibitive, it was ruled out very early in the process.

A new school facility would meet all of the educational and FES standards set forth by the Department of Education and produce a state of the art 21st century school. A new school facility would also better meet the needs of the proposed small learning community method of education proposed by the District. Moreover, while the renovation of the school is already millions of dollars more than the cost of a new school, the price of a renovation is understated because the true cost of a renovation cannot be fully determined until the work is actually underway. Because of that, the SDA would be required to put a much larger construction reserve amount in place for a renovation of this sort than it would for construction of a new facility. Finally, a new facility would also be more efficient and less costly to maintain thereby saving the District money going forward.

The SDA is responsible for capital projects in 31 school districts across the state and must always be cognizant of both its limited resources and the need to efficiently allocate those resources based on the best educational solution to facilities conditions. We are committed to providing a state-of-the-art learning facility that will provide the best possible learning environment for Camden's students while respecting the taxpayers' resources. That is the mission of the SDA and we will continue to live up to the mission for students across the state.