

Governor's Commission on School Construction
Meeting Agenda
June 26, 2025
10 a.m. – noon
[Join Zoom meeting here.](#)
Meeting ID: 829 3837 1320
Passcode: 53007538

Key Topics

1. Master Planning
2. Demographics, Enrollment, and School Building Consolidation

Desired Outcome

Commission determines next steps on above topics. Options include identifying additional information or analysis needed for decision-making and/or endorsing a recommendation in concept to be further developed with language for the commission's review and decision.

Agenda

(Times are approximate.)

10:00	Welcome and Introductions
10:05	Announcements <i>(All)</i>
10:10	Updates and Review of Agenda
10:15	Master Planning
11:00	Demographics, Enrollment, and School Building Consolidation
11:50	Wrap-Up and Next Steps
Noon	Adjourn

Reference Materials

Master Planning

21st Century School Fund, [PK-12 Public Educational Facilities Master Plan Evaluation Guide](#). This guide is intended for districts but provides a comprehensive view of the types of issues and questions involved in the planning process.

Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities & Transportation, [Planning - Master Plans](#). This resource describes district-level planning requirements.

Gordian (May of 2025), [Your Questions Answered: 2025 State of Facilities in Higher Education](#). Although this information pertains to higher education facilities, the issues are relevant to K-12.

Massachusetts School Building Authority, [Maintenance and Capital Planning](#).

School Building Authority at the Rhode Island Department of Education (2017), [Rhode Island Schoolhouse Jacobs Recommendations for Consideration](#). This resource contains statewide facilities assessment, planning services assessment, and recommended action plan information.

Demographics, Enrollment, and School Building Consolidation

AASA (The School Superintendents Association)(2010), [School District Consolidation: The Benefits and Costs](#). This report describes the circumstances and issues associated with consolidation, including the distinction between capital and operating economies of scale.

Maine Policy Review (2013), [Improving Educational Opportunity and Equity through School District Consolidation in Maine](#). This report describes early results of district consolidation efforts.

Michigan Department of Education (April of 2025), [Three Michigan School Districts Will Consolidate, Modernize with Grant Funds](#). This is an announcement of a consolidation initiative, funded in part via the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

National Education Policy Center (NEPC) at the University of Colorado at Boulder (2011), [Consolidation of Schools and Districts – What the Research Says and What It Means](#).

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College (2016), [Consolidation as a Potential Cost Saving Measure For New Hampshire's Education System](#). This study examines consolidation of schools and districts in New Hampshire as a cost saving measure (specifically pages 3-10).

State of Michigan Department of Education (January of 2025), [Section 11x\(6\) – Consolidation Studies Grant](#). This is an announcement of consolidation studies grant availability.

University of Dayton (2008), [Coming Together: The Pros and Cons of School Consolidation](#). In this relatively short piece, David Dolph highlights the pros and cons of school consolidation. Despite being written 17 years ago, many of the same issues apply today.

Key Questions

The questions below for each major topic on the agenda are intended to support discussion at commission meetings and subsequent breakout sessions. Please consider the questions as examples

(not exclusive of other questions). Commission members, staff, and interested parties are encouraged to add questions or desired areas of analysis, as needed.

1. Master Planning

Premise: The desired outcome is efficient forecasting and planning for all school facilities in Maine. It includes life-cycle analysis of facilities, existing and leading demographic and other data, projected costs, priorities, and goals.

Examples of Questions for Commission Discussion

- Does the commission want to **pursue additional examination** in this area?
- What is the scope? Should/could this be done at a **statewide or district level** or a combination of the two, with some aspects handled by the state and others by districts?
- **What specifically would be included** in a master plan, and what would be the benefit of it?
- What **capacity** does the state have now for planning, and planning management? What would need to be added/developed? What would be the cost?

2. Demographics, Enrollment, and School Building Consolidation

Premise: A master planning approach, either at the state or district level, includes considerations such as future demographics and enrollment, along with cost projections, staffing, equity, and facility sustainability. In Maine and in other states, the strategy of consolidating school facilities has been employed to lower costs and/or to maintain or strengthen the educational experience for students and teachers. Determining the best strategies for Maine requires identifying and analyzing the data needed to make informed decisions both short and longer-term.

Examples of Questions for Commission Discussion

- Does the commission want to **pursue additional examination** in this area?
- What data do we have now regarding **demographics**? How far does it extend into the future? What's missing?
- What **enrollment data** do we have now? How far does it extend into the future? Are immediate actions needed to obtain this data? If so, what would be the desired timeframe and cost?
- What actions are needed to ensure the **availability of sound enrollment data** and analysis for future decision makers? What do funding and timeline look like?
- What are the **primary drivers** for proposing consolidation?
- If consolidation is adopted as a key strategy, **do desired outcomes differ** depending on the districts or schools?
- How would the desired **consolidation outcomes be measured over time** (e.g., costs related to per student, replacement, renovation, maintenance, transportation, educational outcomes, administration, staffing, impact on property taxes, etc.)?

- What data do we have now regarding the **results of consolidations**—both quantitative and qualitative—in Maine and nationally?
- What potential does **technology** hold to link students and teachers from separate locations, and what effect, if any, will this have on consolidation?
- Given the extraordinary planning and logistics at the district level to achieve consolidation, how could **this local effort be recognized as a contribution**, in terms of state versus local funding?
- Does the concept of consolidation only include school buildings, or are other forms included such as **shared administration, staffing, purchasing, or other**?
- What **changes in law, statute, or policy** would be needed to implement this strategy?