

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today helped the House pass a measure that would deliver approximately \$11.2 million to schools across the congressional district he represents. The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act would make critical investments to modernize, upgrade and repair school facilities across the country -- creating healthier, safer, and more energy-efficient learning environments.

"Investing in environmentally-friendly materials and products to renovate and upgrade our schools will help children learn better, make classrooms more environmentally healthy, create jobs, and promote the growth of a green economy," Hinchey said. "These federal funds will help municipalities across New York and the entire country pay for much-needed improvements and upgrades that they otherwise couldn't afford. This bill invests in education, renewable energy, and the environment in a very comprehensive and thoughtful manner.

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act would authorize \$6.4 billion for school facilities projects across the country for fiscal year 2010 to ensure that school districts will quickly receive modernization funds. The bill requires the majority of funds (100 percent by 2015) to be used for projects that meet green building standards.

Schools that are in the congressional district Hinchey represents can expect to receive the following estimated funds for green modernization projects (Note: Communities within these counties that are not part of the 22nd Congressional District of New York are not factored into the dollar figures): Broome County -- \$2.86 million; Delaware County -- \$52,000; Dutchess County -- \$1.02 million; Orange County -- \$2.88 million; Sullivan County -- \$1.38 million; Tioga County -- \$416,000; Tompkins County -- \$338,000; and Ulster County -- \$2.27 million. Specific information on how much municipalities within those counties will receive can be found by [clicking here](#).

Research demonstrates that better school facilities result in improved student achievement and teacher recruitment and retention. The physical condition of schools also affects teacher and principal recruitment and retention. Forty percent of teachers who transferred schools and 39 percent who left teaching cited the need for significant school repairs as a source of their dissatisfaction. One-third of school principals cited at least one environmental factor as interfering with their ability to deliver instruction.

A green school uses 30 percent less energy and 30 percent less water than a conventional school. Green schools also reduce harmful carbon dioxide emissions by 40 percent, which helps reduce global climate change and lessen our carbon footprint. Environmentally-friendly schools have better lighting and temperature controls, which promote higher student achievement. Evidence suggests that poor environments in conventional schools, due primarily to the effects of indoor pollutants, adversely affect the health, performance, and attendance of students, while green schools have a more comfortable indoor environment, improved ventilation and indoor air quality.

Hinchey noted that investing in renewable energy technology for schools will save money in the short-term and in the long-term through the use of green building techniques. In the short-term, green schools have an average savings of \$96,760 per year. In the long-term savings from green buildings are on average \$70 per square foot. A green school typically utilizes 33 percent less energy and 32 percent less water.

Now that the House has passed the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, the measure must now be taken up by the Senate.