

Education Construction Site Assessment and Capital Investment Program Summary

Webinar Session February 5, 2020

Additional and updated information will be provided at:

<https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofpsm/dfmc/ecsap>

Questions and Answers

1. Is the site assessment plan used to determine the local need?

Answer: The site assessment will determine a holistic site-by-site solution to providing a safe, secure, healthy, operationally modern, and long-lasting campus to support the BIE mission to provide quality education opportunities. In this case “local” would be the school campus.

2. Will all locations be made aware of where they have placed in the overall FCI ranking? How and with what frequency will this be communicated? [Similar question: “The new process is much better, but how do we know if we are being considered for the 2021 assessment list?”]

Answer: Each October Indian Affairs will use the previous fiscal year’s Facilities Condition Index (FCI) data for Q4 (end of September) to determine the schools that will be assessed in that current fiscal year. The results will be posted on the website listed at the top of this file.

3. What if the tribe does not agree with your site plan?

Answer: The process is to work closely with the tribal and schools designated representatives throughout the assessment process. Any recommended action in the site project plan will be based on the coordinated comprehensive assessment.

4. Does all the criteria or conditions have to be in Maximo before considered for this process?

Answer: As with the National Rulemaking Committee’s Report (NRC Report), a schools FCI is used to determine eligibility to apply (old process) and priority order for the schools chosen for the next fiscal year’s site assessments (new process). Once a school is added to the site assessment list we still recommend keeping Maximo up to date regarding discrepancies. Our intention is to continue to fund and repair discrepancies, especially safety and health issues, as needed.

5. Are peripheral schools (students attend public school) facilities considered or only those that school on campus?

Answer: The peripheral school itself would not be eligible for education construction funding. If there is a dormitory located nearby that supports the BIE funded students that attend the peripheral school, then that dormitory or any other BIE funded facilities would be eligible.

6. How long would the site plan be good for? In case the process to get to funding takes longer than expected due to funding limitations?

Answer: Once a school is selected for a site assessment it will be assessed. The subsequent site project plan will be good indefinitely and updated as needed. When the project is in the planning phase the site project plan will help define the scope of activities performed during planning. Once the project completes the planning phase the project will be added to the applicable funding stream list to await funding for the design-build phase. Any significant delays prior to the design-build phase will result in an evaluation and update as needed for any of the planning information. The intent will be to begin the spread out the planning phase efforts so the wait between planning and design-build will be minimized.

7. What is the advantage of using this plan? Looks the same as the old plan just different wording.

Answer: Under the old process every eligible schools was required to submit an application and from those applications only a limited number would be selected. The NRC Report recommends 5 schools be selected each 5 years. In 2016 all 10 of the phase 2 schools were selected. The NRC Report also states that any schools not selected in one iteration of the process would have to again be determined to be eligible and reapply during the next cycle. No applications would be retained. Under the old process, even at the rate of 10 schools selected each 5 years, it would 30 years for the 60 eligible schools to be considered, assuming that no additional schools became eligible. In the new site assessment program each school that meets criteria 1 or 2 for eligibility in the NRC Report WILL be assessed in the next 3-4 years and have a site project plan developed.

8. How do we complete Site Project Plan without doing the School Planning Phase first? For instance, we have two schools on one campus, and after SPP Phase they may need to be separated.

Answer: The site assessment is a comprehensive assessment including both technical and operational areas. Many of the areas assessed by the third party contractor in doing technical review are things normally done in the planning phase (geotechnical survey, structure integrity, utility condition and capacity assessment, etc ...) which will support the final site project plan. It is anticipated that the subsequent planning phase time will be reduced as a result of the work performed during the site assessment. Regarding the two schools on one campus part of the question, the site assessments will be conducted for the school campuses as defined by BIE.

9. When are the site assessments going to be shared with the schools and tribes?

Answer: Once the third party contractor's technical report is provided to DFMC a copy will be provided to the school. Once the final recommendations have been presented to the FIRB and approved by Indian Affairs and DOI leadership, then the results will be announced and the tribe and schools notified.

10. At what point in the year does FCI data get updated? Could we get a link to the FCI report? Please and thank you?

Answer: The Facilities Condition Index (FCI) is a real-time data point for any facility or site that is available in Maximo. DFMC produces a Quarterly FCI report and provides the information to Indian Affairs leadership. Specifically for the Site Assessment Program, the Q4 FCI data will be used and the analysis results will be posted to the web page listed at the top of this file.

11. Is student count part of the assessment? If schools have limited students each year do they still qualify for replacement.

Answer: Part of the site assessment process is to examine current available space and calculated space requirements. The space requirements are identified in what is called a "Program of Requirements" (POR). One of the key data entry points for developing the POR is the projected student count. DFMC works with BIE to gather the 10 years Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) count for each grade in the school. DFMC then uses that data to project the student counts 10 years into the future. These numbers are used to determine space allocation for the school (the number of classrooms, size of kitchen and dining facilities, and more). The student population itself is not a criteria for determining eligibility for the site assessment. The student count is used to develop the scope of the site project plan.

12. Once the site plan is approved schools are still waiting on Congressional appropriations for funding of project; which is not guaranteed? But if the project is approved and funding is approved school could expect a level of component replacement within the next 3-5 years?

Answer: This portion of the project would be the design-build phase. Once funding is approved for the design-build phase of the project we would anticipate the project being complete closer to the 3 year end of the mentioned timeline. The project may take longer for more complex campuses where the work has to be phased in to allow the school to continue operations when the construction is ongoing.

13. Will you use this to develop a long term replacement plan for schools? One that will allow the schools to plan for funding and replacement or will this be site process done at again sometime in the future as the schools age?

Answer: The Site Assessment Program is a critical component of Indian Affairs long-term strategy to address the condition of the schools. Moving forward, after all the schools that meet the NRC Report's criteria 1 and 2 are assessed, Indian Affairs will continue to monitor and assess schools at some rate. Those facilities that underwent a major renovation to extend their useful life rather than a full replacement will be monitored and we will be able to begin long-term programming to identify when these facilities will need to be replaced. The goal is to get all schools on a path to "Good" and then keep them there.

14. Will tribal leaders be able to attend the FIRB quarterly meetings?

Answer: IA Facilities Investment Review Board (FIRB) is an internal planning meeting.