



# TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Relations



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## ***MEMORANDUM***

**TO:** TACIR Commission Members

**FROM:** Harry A. Green *Harry*  
Executive Director

**DATE:** December 8, 2011

**SUBJECT:** School Infrastructure Needs

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Based on interest expressed at the June 2011 Commission meeting, TACIR's infrastructure team has been working on a supplemental report on Tennessee's public school infrastructure needs. The following are some highlights from the draft that will be emailed to you before the meeting.

- Local officials have estimated annual new school construction needs ranging from \$1.5 to \$1.8 billion for each of the past seven inventories. In the last two inventories the needs reported by local officials for new school buildings decreased from 2007 levels, but were still higher than 2004.
- The July 2009 TACIR inventory lists 85 needed new school construction projects. Nearly one-third of them have been in the inventory since 2002 and more than half have been listed five years or more.
- Of the 58% that have been in the inventory for five years or more, two-thirds are still in the conceptual stage.
- In the 2006 inventory, six school systems reported a need to build new schools exceeding \$100 million: Knox, Montgomery, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson counties.
- In the 2009 inventory, only three systems reported a need for more than \$100 million to build new schools: Montgomery, Williamson, and Wilson counties.
- The 2009 TACIR inventory indicates that only 8% of Tennessee's public school buildings are rated fair or poor. This is a vast improvement from the first report in 1999 when 59% were rated fair or poor.

- While 8% may seem low, the schools that are rated fair or poor reflect nearly \$450 million in needs and are not evenly dispersed across the state.
- Of the 134 schools rated in less than good condition in 2009, 115 (80%) were built before 1970.