

School Survey

Frequently Asked Questions - General

Q: What is the School Survey?

A: The School Survey is a statewide assessment of the general facility conditions of all public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth. The MSBA is sending design and engineering professionals to each school to evaluate several key factors including building conditions, general environment, capacity and maintenance.

Q: Why is the School Survey important?

A: The MSBA's enabling statute requires the MSBA to "perform or commission a needs survey to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance and other capital needs for schools in the commonwealth." The School Survey is designed to help the MSBA understand how the needs of individual school districts fit within the statewide spectrum of need. The data collected during the School Survey is critical to the MSBA's efforts to ensure fair and equitable funding of school construction, renovation, and repair projects across the Commonwealth.

Q: How many schools will be involved?

A: The MSBA is evaluating all public elementary, middle and high schools in the Commonwealth that may be eligible for a grant from the MSBA under Chapter 70B of the Massachusetts General Laws. The School Survey will include site visits at approximately 1,580 schools and the compilation of existing data at approximately 120 additional schools currently in the MSBA's program pipeline.

Q: Is it the same as a Statement of Interest Senior Study?

A: No. The School Survey is being conducted at all school facilities, not just those for which a Statement of Interest has been submitted to the MSBA. The goal of the School Survey is to assess the building conditions, general environment, capacity and maintenance at school facilities. Senior Studies and Facilities Assessments are more in-depth architectural and engineering studies of school facilities for which a district has submitted a Statement of Interest.

Q: Will the results of the School Survey impact a project a District has already submitted a Statement of Interest for?

A: No. The School Survey is being conducted to help the MSBA establish the current general conditions of the Commonwealth's public elementary and secondary schools. While the data collected will help the MSBA understand and prioritize needs in both the short and the long term, it will not change the overall review process for projects which have already submitted a Statement of Interest.

Q: What if I haven't yet submitted a Statement of Interest; will the School Survey change that process?

A: No. The data collected during the School Survey is only one component in the MSBA's decision on whether to fund individual school construction and renovation projects and does not, by itself, provide the basis for funding eligibility. Districts will still be required to submit a Statement of Interest in order for a school to be considered for funding under the MSBA's grant program.

Q: Will schools receive a "score" based on this process?

A: Each school will receive a comparative rating that will help the MSBA understand where individual school buildings fit within the statewide spectrum of building conditions. The rating is only one component in the MSBA's decision on whether to fund individual school construction and renovation projects and does not, by itself, provide the basis for funding eligibility.

Q: What will be the result of the School Survey? Will you issue a report?

A: The MSBA will analyze the data collected by the assessors and develop a comprehensive report that summarizes the findings of the School Survey. The report is tentatively scheduled to be released in December 2025.

Q: Is this School Survey different from previous 2016 School Survey?

A: The School Survey is a similar assessment that was conducted in 2016. Some of the questions have been updated to reflect changes; however, the objective remains the same to gather a statewide inventory of all public school facilities in Massachusetts.

Q: Who can I contact for specific questions?

A: For any general questions about the upcoming 2025 School Survey, please use the contact us form, available [here](#).