

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The California School Facilities Research Institute (CSFRI) has Partnered with Bellwether to Launch Groundbreaking Study on the Impact of Rebuilding Schools on Student Success

Sacramento, CA – Wednesday, October 8, 2025 – The California School Facilities Research Institute (CSFRI), in partnership with Bellwether, has announced a new research initiative titled *From Bricks to Outcomes: Evaluating the Effects of Facility Investments in California*. This study will be a rigorous examination on how rebuilding and modernizing aging Pre-K–12 schools influences student academic achievement and attendance.

With California facing billions in deferred maintenance and modernization needs, policymakers, regulators, and school facility planners need clear evidence to guide investments. This study will analyze capital expenditures across California districts over nearly a decade, integrate student performance and attendance data, and provide actionable recommendations for state leaders and school facility professionals.

“Safe, healthy, and modern schools are not a luxury; they are the foundation of every student’s success in every community” said Thomas Pace, Director, Facilities Planning and Development, San Bernardino City Unified School District and CSFRI Chair. *“This research will provide the evidence needed to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely while maximizing benefits for students and communities.”*

Bellwether will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining statewide quantitative analysis with in-depth studies from diverse California districts. The findings are projected to be presented publicly at the **CASH Annual Conference in February 2026**, with a comprehensive report and policy handouts made available to legislators, regulators, and the broader education community.

Call to Action: Support the Future of School Facilities Research

CSFRI is committed to ensuring that research drives equitable, effective investment in California’s school infrastructure. However, this vital work requires ongoing support. We invite school facilities professionals, policymakers, and community members to contribute to the **CSFRI Research Fund**. Your donations will sustain this study and fuel future projects that shape smarter, student-centered facility planning across the state.

To donate and learn more about CSFRI, please visit:

www.californiaschoolfacilitiesresearchinstitute.com

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