



Photos courtesy of: Williams Scotsman

Modular Buildings Mean Optimal Learning

According to McGraw-Hill Construction, U.S. schools project to spend more than \$162 billion on facilities construction over the next three years. While it may take another decade or so before sustainable designs are fully adopted, some industry leaders are making “green” buildings and classrooms a priority for the coming school year.

Unfortunately though, sustainable design practices often take a back seat to budget realities because many school business officials are unfamiliar with green building methods. The common misconception is that they represent more expensive facility investments. While initial costs may, in fact, exceed traditional buildings, the long-term benefits and cost savings in ongoing operations are certainly recognized. In some cases, districts are able to apply tax credits to help balance some of the additional up front costs. More and more school districts are beginning to recognize the benefits of building green in an effort to create more effective and cost-efficient learning environments, understanding the relationship between physical surroundings, student health, and academic performance.

One survey conducted by *School Planning & Management* magazine reports that 87% of executives at organizations involved with “green” K-12 facilities believe that community image is enhanced when sustainable design is incorporated into schools. Approximately 70% of these executives perceive benefits, including reduced student absenteeism and improved ability to attract and retain teachers.

The modular building industry has taken notice of the upswing in progressive building methods and looks to aid school districts in understanding what “green” means and how to introduce environmentally conscious concepts into school systems nationwide.

Industry leader Williams Scotsman, a leading provider of modular space solutions, is one of the first to incorporate sustainable design technology into

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its plans for future classroom products. In fact, Williams Scotsman has been working closely with the Baltimore-based architectural firm Hord Coplan Macht to develop environmentally friendly mobile and modular classroom designs.

Thousands of educational institutions throughout North America have called upon Williams Scotsman to provide reliable relocatable and permanent modular buildings when their school systems need additional space. Currently, the company is committed to anticipate the influence that sustainable design will have on modular classrooms of the future. The company’s unique approach harmonizes new technology and design concepts with long-term economies to ultimately create optimal learning environments at reasonable lifecycle costs for school systems.

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