



BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER:

Funding School Construction for the Next Generation

Agenda

9:30 am: Registration/Coffee

10:00 am: Welcome

Nikki Baker, Organizer, Healthy Schools Now

10:15 am: Keynote Speaker

Tina Dare, Secretary-Treasurer, NJ Education Association

10:30 am: Panel 1: Cracks in the Foundation: How Aging Schools Impact Students and Staff

Panelists will share firsthand experiences of teaching and learning in aging school facilities. They will discuss how outdated infrastructure impacts student health, learning outcomes, and the working conditions of school staff. This conversation will set the stage for a follow-up panel focused on the urgent need for increased public investment in safe, healthy, and modern school buildings.

Moderator: Kaleena Berryman, Co-Facilitator, Our Children, Our Schools

- Keith Hinton, Chair, New Jersey Education Association, Health and Safety Committee
- Silvia Pereira, AFTNJ, Executive Vice President (PreK-12)
- Jennie Lamon, Assistant Director of Government Relations, NJ Principals and Supervisors Association
- Leon Carelli, Vice President of Advocacy, NJ Parent Teacher Association

11:30 am: What's Happening in Trenton

An overview of key legislative developments and the bills Healthy Schools Now is working to move forward.

11:45 am: Lunch

12:30 pm: Building Healthy Schools Now Through Our Stories

Participants will be invited to share their experiences, connect with others, and get involved in Healthy Schools Now.

12:45 pm: Fireside Chat

A fireside chat exploring New Jersey's state budget with a focus on school construction funding and the role of bonding in addressing long-standing infrastructure needs. The conversation will examine current proposals, fiscal considerations, and what's at stake for students, communities, and the state's economic future.

Moderator: [Debra Coyle](#), Executive Director, NJ Work Environment Council

- Brandon McCoy, President, Fund for NJ
- Therea Luhm, Esq. *Director of Finance, Operations & Development, NJ Education Law Center*

1:30 pm: Taking Action for Healthy Schools

This session will outline clear, practical ways to stay engaged and drive progress beyond today's conversation. Participants will learn about upcoming advocacy opportunities and concrete next steps.

1:50 pm: Closing Remarks