

Building Upkeep
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Building upkeep: The task of keeping the district's building in good operating condition is no different than keeping a typical home in good condition. It is just on a much larger scale. A typical classroom is around 1,000 square feet. A typical house is around 2,000 square feet. To replace the carpeting in a classroom of that size, it will cost in the neighborhood of \$2,500 for commercial-grade carpeting. Most of the district's academic buildings have in excess of 25 classrooms. That would be over \$62,500 just to replace the carpeting in one of the buildings. In a school setting, the life expectancy of carpeted floors is around ten years. So within ten years, the district needs to set aside \$62,500 just to replace the carpeting in a single building.

That same classroom has twelve 4-foot fluorescent light fixtures, each containing four lamps. That means 48 lamps are going to need to be changed at some point, along with a ballast that is contained in each light fixture.

The classrooms have 30 student desks; it can cost \$1,800 to replace the desks in a single room. Yes, the desks do get to a point where they need to be replaced.

At the elementary building level, the classrooms have sinks and some even have a restroom in the classroom. All of these items are used daily by close to thirty people unlike a house that may have four to five occupants. The wear and tear on the classroom is greatly increased over the typical home. Imagine having thirty people walking in and out of your house for six hours a day, five days a week. This does not include afterschool activities that take place in most of the facilities.

Labor and material to repaint a classroom can run up to \$1,000.

The same classroom has a heating device, just like your house has a furnace, which needs to be maintained and serviced. Filters and belts are checked and replaced when needed and the units are cleaned and oiled.

Each classroom is like home and, like a home, it takes money to do the repairs and keep rooms functioning properly. The district has around 300,000 square feet of buildings to keep up. That is equivalent to 150 homes. Even with the ever-shrinking budgets that the State is giving schools, the district needs to be able to maintain the buildings that the taxpayers have allowed to be built. I expect it – so should you.