



New England School Development Council

Celebrating over fifty years of service to education

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT NESDEC

The New England School Development Council (NESDEC) is an organization whose general purpose is the development of high performance schools throughout the Northeast and particularly in those school districts that are affiliates. NESDEC was founded in 1945 under the auspices of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Based on the concept of collaboration, NESDEC seeks to meet the needs of school districts by pooling resources so that many can do together what one cannot do alone.

Today, NESDEC represents approximately 400 cities and towns in the Northeast and offers services to school districts in four areas:

- **Professional Development.** NESDEC sponsors workshops/seminars each year for school administrators, teachers, school committee members and others within the educational community.
- **Executive Search.** NESDEC assists school committees in filling Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and other educational leadership positions.
- **Research and Development.** NESDEC undertakes research or development projects funded through public, foundation or corporate sources which have a high potential for enhancing the performance of schools and school districts.
- **Planning and Management Services.** NESDEC offers services related to short and long range facilities planning (including enrollment forecasting, capacity determinations, option development, etc.) as well as services related to other aspects of school district planning.

NESDEC is governed by a Board of Directors and administered by an Executive Director who is assisted by professional/support staff in the Marlborough office and associate staff located throughout New England.

A non-profit organization, NESDEC is financed through affiliation fees, contract service fees, and grants received from public and private sources.

Statement of Qualifications

Through its Planning and Management office, NESDEC has been helping school districts plan for future school facility needs for thirty years. NESDEC provides all the necessary background information, involves community and staff throughout the process, and prepares a master plan document ready for use by architects when that becomes appropriate. NESDEC's staff brings expertise in educational program and facilities at all levels—elementary, middle and secondary. This insures that the various planning options and recommendations developed fully integrate space needs based upon student enrollment growth changes with the needs based upon the educational program.

Specifically:

1. The accompanying list of projects of this type successfully completed demonstrates our experience in helping public school districts plan for long-range facilities needs.
2. NESDEC prepares and updates approximately 250 enrollment forecasts each October. Additionally, NESDEC has prepared over 100 Community Demographic Profiles for those districts needing additional background data as a context for enrollment projections. These profiles are based on information from the U.S. Census reports of 1970 - 1990 contained in NESDEC's regional database.
3. During the course of a long-range school facilities planning project, NESDEC works with educational and community staff to clearly define both the educational programs currently being offered as well as those programs which the district wishes to offer. The available educational spaces are then analyzed in terms of their size, number, and appropriateness to offer the educational program as defined.
4. NESDEC has extensive experience in working with the full range of a community's constituencies, including city/town officials, school building committees and/or other ad hoc planning groups, school staffs, parents and other community members. Beyond our experience with these diverse groups is NESDEC's belief that early and complete involvement of all constituents is an integral part of any successful planning process. NESDEC also works routinely with architects as well as regional and state planning agencies.
5. NESDEC has a proven record of success in effectively presenting and explaining school facilities planning issues in a variety of public forums.
6. NESDEC has a leadership role in school facilities' issues in New England. On November 17, 1995, NESDEC inaugurated its first annual regional conference on school facilities. NESDEC hosts semi-annual meetings of the state facilities planners from the New England states so that they might exchange work experiences and discuss issues of common interest.