



3 ALTERNATIVE PRE K-12 FUNDING SOURCES

Explore Alternative Funding Options Available for Educational Institutions

Funding, and the strategies behind securing funding, play a crucial role in the construction and renovation of Pre-K-12 buildings.

While traditional funding sources like government grants and bonds are commonly used, there are alternative funding options available for educational institutions that do not involve bonds or asking for money from the community at large. While none of these are likely to replace traditional funding methods, and not all may be viable, they are all worth exploring when planning how to fund a project.

1 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPS)

Public-private partnerships involve collaboration between public entities, such as school districts; and private entities, such as developers or corporations. These arrangements can be complex, but for certain facilities a PPP arrangement can be beneficial for the district via:

- **Cost Sharing:** PPPs offer the advantage of cost sharing, where private partners contribute capital, expertise, or resources to the project, reducing the financial burden on public entities.
- **Expertise and Innovation:** Private partners bring expertise in project management, design, and construction, resulting in innovative and efficient building solutions.
- **Long-Term Maintenance:** PPPs often include agreements for private partners to handle long-term maintenance and operation of the facility, ensuring its ongoing upkeep.



2 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Seeking donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations interested in supporting education and community development can be fruitful, particularly in the formation of partnerships.

- **Building Partnerships:** Developing relationships with philanthropic organizations and individuals aligned with educational goals can lead to significant contributions towards Pre-K-12 building projects.
- **Grants and Foundations:** Identifying and applying for grants provided by foundations dedicated to education or specific causes can provide substantial funding opportunities.
- **Naming Rights and Sponsorships:** Offering naming rights or sponsorships for specific spaces within the building can incentivize philanthropic contributions.

3 ENERGY EFFICIENCY & SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Energy efficiency and sustainable design are synonymous, and will save in material costs, operational, and maintenance expenses. But many clients don't know that sustainable design can generate income. Incentive programs and grants provided by government agencies or utility companies for environmentally friendly building projects can be sources of new funding.

- **Energy Cost Savings:** Designing energy-efficient buildings not only reduces environmental impact but also leads to long-term cost savings on energy bills.
- **Government Programs and Grants:** Researching and applying for government programs and grants that promote energy efficiency or sustainable practices can provide financial support for Pre-K-12 building projects.

For example, California offers the California Energy Design Assistance Program (CEDA) with incentives for optimizing energy efficiency.

- **Utility Rebates and Incentives:** Utility companies often offer rebates and incentives for implementing energy-saving measures, such as efficient HVAC systems, lighting, or renewable energy sources.

4 GRANTS

Career Technical Education is on the rise and the state has set aside funding to help with construction of innovative projects with unique curriculum.

- **Qualifying:** School districts with CTE programs who are in need of modernization, new facilities or equipment to run their pathway programs can qualify for these grants.
- **Funding:** California's SAB has established CTEFB funding to assist districts with this goal.
- **Grant Submission:** Innovative design and curriculum are the keys to high scoring submissions.

While traditional funding resources for Pre-K-12 building projects are valuable and will likely be the dominant means of funding a project, there is room to get creative and explore alternate options. By exploring these alternative sources, educational institutions can enhance their capacity to create modern, technology rich learning environments for students.

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