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The Measure

PERSPECTIVES FOR EDUCATION LEADERS — MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

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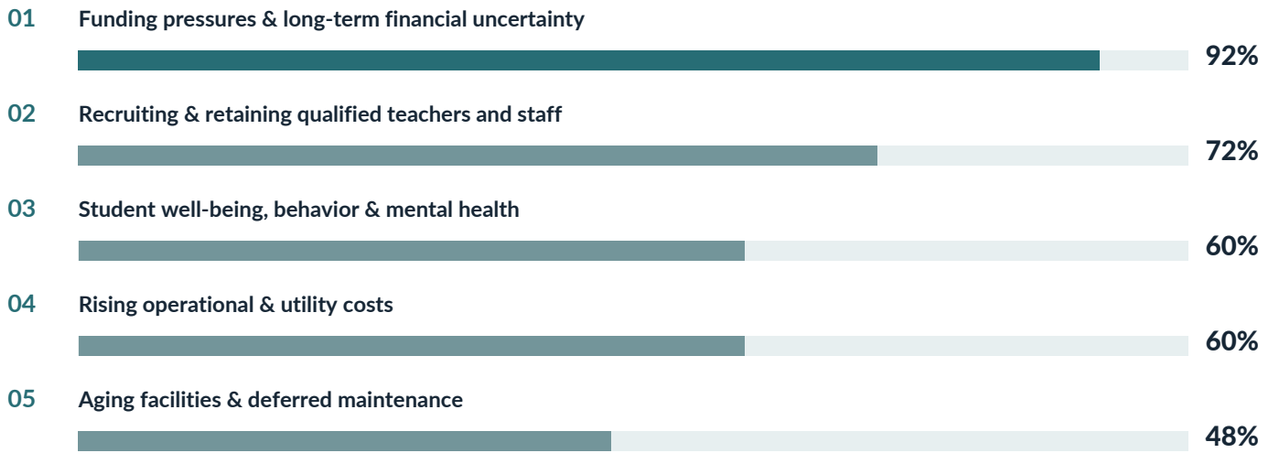
TODAY'S CHALLENGES REQUIRE TOMORROW'S THINKING

Missouri school districts continue to navigate an increasingly complex environment. To better understand current priorities, Paragon Architecture recently asked Missouri superintendents to identify the five most significant challenges facing their districts today. While every district is unique, the results reveal several common themes that are shaping strategic planning and facility decisions across the region.

THE LEAD STORY / WHAT DISTRICTS ARE FACING

The five biggest challenges

Share of surveyed superintendents selecting each challenge



BEYOND THE NUMBERS

What these results tell us

FINANCIAL PRESSURE

Nearly every decision carries a financial tradeoff. Leaders must balance immediate needs and long-term sustainability while scrutinizing each investment in people, programs, and facilities.

EVOLVING STUDENT NEEDS

Behavior, mental wellness, and social-emotional support remain central concerns as district leaders respond to changing student needs.

FACILITES AS STRATEGY

Aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and rising operating costs are prompting districts to consider how facilities support learning while making every dollar count.

Insight to action

Questions Worth Asking...

FUNDING & LONG-TERM UNCERTAINTY

- Which investments have the greatest impact on student learning?
- What maintenance can no longer be deferred?
- Are today's facility priorities aligned with tomorrow's enrollment and instructional needs?
- What projects can be phased over multiple years?

RECRUITING & RETAINING STAFF

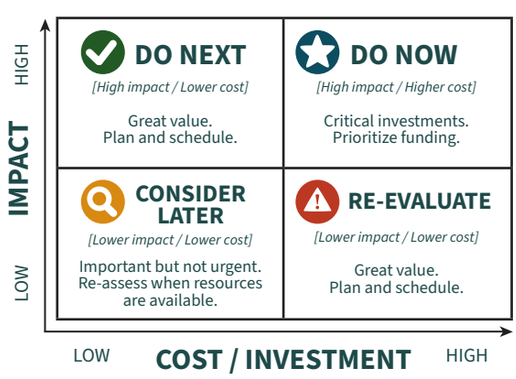
- Do our schools provide environments where educators want to work?
- Are teacher collaboration spaces supporting today's instructional practices?
- Which small facility improvements could improve staff satisfaction?
- How can our buildings better support wellness, safety, and flexibility?

Four filters for facility decisions

When resources are limited, a structured decision-making process can help districts prioritize facility investments that deliver the greatest educational, operational, and financial value.

1. **EDUCATIONAL IMPACT**
   Will this improve teaching and learning?
2. **RISK**
   What happens if we wait?
3. **FINANCIAL RETURN**
   Will this save money later?
4. **STRATEGIC VALUE**
   Does this move the district toward its long-range goals?

FACILITY INVESTMENT DECISION MATRIX



NEED ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE? Major facility decisions rarely have simple answers. If your district would benefit from a collaborative conversation about prioritizing projects, evaluating options, or developing a long-range facility strategy, let us know.