

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

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WHAT WE DO

The School Construction Authority (SCA) is the agency accountable for new school construction and major renovations to existing schools. SCA is responsible for all capital planning, budgeting, designing, and construction. The Authority manages the development and implementation of the Department of Education's Five-Year Capital Plan, identifies and acquires sites for new schools, leases buildings for schools, designs and constructs new facilities, and performs repairs and enhancements of the existing portfolio.

FOCUS ON EQUITY

SCA is committed to designing and constructing safe, attractive, and environmentally sound public schools for children throughout all of the City's communities. SCA has set its priorities, including reducing overcrowding, upgrading schools, and improving access to technology to reflect this commitment. The Fiscal 2025–2029 Five Year Capital Plan provides funding for tens of thousands of new seats in areas with current over-utilization and projected enrollment growth, as well as to reduce the reliance on temporary structures. Furthermore, the Capital Plan calls for much needed improvements for aging infrastructure as well as enhancements to ensure more equitable access by all children throughout the five boroughs.

OUR SERVICES AND GOALS

SERVICE 1 Design and construct new schools, additions and capital improvement projects authorized by the Department of Education.

- Goal 1a Produce the number of new school seats authorized by the Department of Education's Five-Year Capital Plan.
- Goal 1b Achieve cost efficiencies in construction.
- Goal 1c Increase the number of capital improvement projects completed on schedule and within budget.
- Goal 1d Ensure project safety and quality.

HOW WE PERFORMED IN FISCAL 2025

SERVICE 1 Design and construct new schools, additions and capital improvement projects authorized by the Department of Education.

Goal 1a Produce the number of new school seats authorized by the Department of Education's Five-Year Capital Plan.

The number of new seats created declined 41 percent from 11,270 in Fiscal 2024 to 6,632 in Fiscal 2025 but remained above the target of 6,254. During this fiscal year, the number of new schools created decreased from 14 to seven, and the number of new additions constructed decreased from 10 to four. The number of schools constructed and seats created fluctuates year-to-year based on the Five-Year Capital Plan, which projected a significantly higher number of seats to be created in Fiscal 2024 than in the preceding and subsequent years.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Total new seats created	4,003	8,934	6,532	11,270	6,632	6,254	4,624	Up	*
★ New schools constructed	7	32	23	14	7	7	7	Down	*
★ New additions constructed	4	3	2	10	4	4	4	Up	*
★ Critical Indicator * Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↕ Directional Target * None									

Goal 1b Achieve cost efficiencies in construction.

SCA continuously reviews and revises construction building standards to ensure cost effectiveness, durability and ease of maintenance. The construction bid price for school capacity projects per square foot decreased slightly from \$894 in Fiscal 2024 to \$870 in Fiscal 2025. During this period, the average new school construction cost per square foot increased 22 percent from \$834 to \$1,017 for elementary schools. Construction cost per square foot for high schools decreased from \$846 in Fiscal 2023 to \$621 in Fiscal 2025; comparative data for Fiscal 2024 is not available because there were no high school projects opened in that fiscal year. Fiscal 2025 data for intermediate school construction cost is not available because no associated projects were completed during the fiscal year.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Construction bid price for school capacity projects per square foot (\$)	\$710	\$905	\$912	\$894	\$870	\$900	\$900	Up	*
Average new school construction cost per square foot – Elementary (\$)	\$787	\$824	\$875	\$834	\$1,017	*	*	Up	*
– Intermediate (\$)	NA	\$713	\$813	\$725	NA	*	*	NA	*
– High school (\$)	\$779	\$724	\$846	NA	\$621	*	*	NA	*
★ Critical Indicator * Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↕ Directional Target * None									

Goal 1c Increase the number of capital improvement projects completed on schedule and within budget.

Scheduled new seats constructed on time remained at 100 percent in Fiscal 2025. Capital improvement projects constructed on time or early improved 10 percentage-points from 43 percent in Fiscal 2024 to 53 percent in Fiscal 2025, yet remained below the target of 60 percent. SCA closely monitors projects throughout the construction process to ensure timeliness. The Authority continues to make progress on this metric but is still recovering from the impacts from COVID-19-related supply chain issues. Capital improvement projects constructed within budget increased four percentage points from 78 percent to 82 percent during this period, above the target of 80 percent.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
New schools and additions – Construction funds committed as a percent of initial authorized budget (%)	94.9%	93.2%	95.4%	92.3%	96.2%	100.0%	100.0%	Neutral	Up
★ Scheduled new seats constructed on time (%)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Neutral	Up
★ Capital improvement projects constructed on time or early (%)	38%	47%	31%	43%	53%	60%	60%	Up	Up
★ Capital improvement projects constructed within budget (%)	38%	72%	77%	78%	82%	80%	80%	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator	🌟 Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↕↕ Directional Target		* None			

Goal 1d

Ensure project safety and quality.

The projected cost of insurance losses as a percent of construction value has decreased slightly from 7.39 percent in Calendar 2023 to 6.75 percent in Calendar 2024 based on preliminary actuarial information. As insurance claims mature, more relevant data will become available.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Ultimate cost of insurance losses (as % of construction value) (CY)	9.38%	8.55%	8.71%	7.39%	6.75%	↓	↓	Down	Down
★ Critical Indicator	🌟 Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↕↕ Directional Target		* None			

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual ¹					Plan ²		5yr Trend
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	
Personnel	860	835	883	947	946	1,059	1,059	Up
Capital commitments (\$000,000)	\$3,302.5	\$4,323.1	\$4,654.4	\$3,990.8	\$3,602.7	\$4,970.9	\$5,919.2	Neutral
¹ Actual financial amounts for the current fiscal year are not yet final. Final fiscal year actuals, from the Comptroller's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, will be reported in the next PMMR. Refer to the "Indicator Definitions" at nyc.gov/mmr for details. ² Authorized Budget Level "NA" - Not Available * None								

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- The Fiscal 2026 target for ‘Total new seats created’ was revised from 6,254 to 4,624 to align with the number of seats projected in the Five-Year Capital Plan.
- ‘Average new school construction cost per square foot—Intermediate (\$)’ was NA in Fiscal 2025 because no middle school construction projects were completed in Fiscal 2025.
- The indicator ‘Ultimate cost of insurance losses (as % of construction value) (CY)’ was made critical.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information on items referenced in the narrative, go to:

- SCA’s 2025–2029 Five-Year Capital Plan:
<https://www.nycsca.org/Community/Capital-Plan-Reports-Data#Capital-Plan-67>

For more information on the agency, please visit: www.nycsca.org.