



ICC NEWS RELEASE

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The Code Council applauds advancement of public schools infrastructure bill

This legislation would invest \$100 billion to repair and rebuild public schools to the latest building codes

Washington, D.C. - Today the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor passed the Rebuild America's Schools Act (RASA) of 2019 (H.R. 865). This legislation creates a \$70 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax credit bond program targeted to help address significant health and safety challenges in public schools. The International Code Council worked closely with the Committee to ensure that these critical investments require the latest codes and standards.

An American Society of Civil Engineers [report](#) found that more than half (53%) of public schools require repairs, renovations and modernizations to be considered in good condition. A 2014 Department of Education [study](#) estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into good condition. The bill requires that repairs, renovations and new construction adhere to the latest model building codes and energy conservation codes, as well as [WaterSense](#) performance criteria within national model codes. Through these measures, the bill ensures that the federal government's considerable investment into public schools leverages best practices in hazard mitigation, energy conservation and water efficiency.

RASA is part of a broader discussion underway in Congress around investments to our nation's infrastructure. The Code Council is leading an [effort](#) to ensure federal infrastructure investments require the application of the latest building codes, such as the International Codes (I-Codes).

"Public schools house vulnerable populations and frequently serve as community centers, acting as emergency shelters and voting locations in addition to their public education functions. These facilities need to be resilient and well maintained," says Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO. "Ensuring they are constructed to current codes protects the children and teachers who use and occupy these structures as well as the federal government's own investment."

The Committee reported version of H.R. 865 will be available [here](#) once the amendments the Committee adopted today have been incorporated. The Manager's Amendment, which includes the code provisions discussed above, is available [here](#).

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About the International Code Council

The [International Code Council](#) is a member-focused association dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable,

affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets [choose the International Codes](#).