10 Best Practices for School Construction Projects

1. Design a school on the assumption that rooms and spaces will be used for different purposes in the future, some of which may not even exist yet.

2. Design spaces to serve multiple purposes during the course of a school week.

3. Consider design-build firms or architects that have experience in the private sector as well as in public schools.

4. Appoint building oversight committees with seasoned professionals experienced in large-scale construction.

5. Hire an independent project manager and project finance manager.

6. Create an incentive such that unspent funds will be used for future projects.

7. Create a culture that rewards coming in under budget.

8. Keep the principal in the classroom, not on the worksite.

9. Remember that what happens in the classroom matters more than the physical classroom, and that every dollar spent on construction is one less dollar for instruction.

10. Never forget that $1 million is still a lot of money, even if it is in the budget or subsidized by the state.