

Goal:

Recognize, support and promote the social and educational benefits of high quality schools and libraries while developing an educated, productive citizenry and quality workforce as a means for preparing for the future.



EDUCATION

New schools, public safety facilities, libraries, parks, etc. will all be needed to serve growth in Sullivan County.

School districts, public safety agencies, libraries, park districts and other service providers are all expected to provide facilities that are adequate to serve the public. However, by the time they identify their specific land needs and potential sites, the available properties may be poorly located and expensive.

The coordination among public facilities planning and land use planning needs to be expanded at the county level. The cumulative effects of smaller developments can have a major impact on the provision of school facilities and other services.

School districts, public safety agencies and other service providers do not often participate as "collaborating partners" in the land use planning process, perhaps because there is no established venue for such interaction.

In addition, the jurisdictional complexity of local government, including the number of special districts and the incomplete linkage between land use planning and capital budgeting, makes it difficult to get an overview of the land requirements for public facilities. Each agency is left to pursue its own land strategy, with little sharing of needs and few opportunities for "joint ventures" that could satisfy multiple requirements and reduce costs.

Lastly, there are few financial tools available to acquire land, even if needs were better planned. The action steps proposed in this Sullivan 2020 Toolbox work toward overcoming these issues.

Policy Area VI Facilities Planning

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STRATEGY 6.15

Utilize proper planning techniques when planning for expansion and new construction of schools and encourage the improvement of existing school buildings.

Timeframe

SHORT TERM
INTERMEDIATE
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Ensure that the design of schools represent important community facilities for education and provide a creative, safe environment for students, taking into consideration the natural topography of sites, traffic flow, and needs of surrounding neighborhoods. Like their historic precedents, tomorrow’s schools should be designed as future civic landmarks.	C/M/P	
Locate new public school and library facilities in areas appropriate to the projected students served: a. <u>Suburban Areas</u> : Elementary schools should be planned as the nucleus of a neighborhood with better accessibility by bike and walking trails, and all outside school facilities in suburban areas should be available for year round recreational use. b. <u>Rural Areas</u> : Elementary schools should be planned so as to be reasonably centrally located within the area served.	C/M/P	
Provide adequate administrative and maintenance facilities which maximize the use of existing or planned school facilities.	C/M/P	
Encourage public/private partnerships to maximize use of building year round as a community and multi-use facility.	C/M/P	
Explore opportunities for the School Districts and Parks Department to collaborate to provide joint use of facilities	C/M/P	

Leadership Role: C – County M – Municipality P – Partners
 Status: A – Active P – Pending C – Complete

Steps (continued)	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Establish a task force/strategic plan subcommittee to analyze data and evaluate projected growth impacts on School Districts.	C/M/P	
Encourage a balance of residential/commercial/light industrial development to mitigate tax impacts of school facilities development, particularly, in the more remote areas.	M/P	
Require a percentage of workforce and/or affordable housing as a component of other housing developments.	M/P	
Create requirements for developers to dedicate land for school facility development or park areas, as part of development approvals process	M/P	
Develop a rating/incentive system, incorporating the above elements, which can be used in review/approval process.	C/M/P	

Resources

Documents

- ◆ Planning Guide for Maintaining School Facilities. February 2003
- ◆ Instruction Guide for Public School Districts and BOCES Obtaining Building Permits for Capital Construction Projects. July 2002
- ◆ Manual of Planning Standards for School Buildings. Draft March 1998
- ◆ Creating Communities of Learning—Schools and Smart Growth. April 2004
- ◆ Community Schools

Organizations and Programs

- ◆ *National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities (NCEF)* - www.edfacilities.org
A free public service that provides information on planning, designing, funding, building, improving, and maintaining schools.

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STRATEGY 6.16

Improve coordination between long-range school board facilities planning and local development initiatives.

Timeframe

SHORT TERM
INTERMEDIATE
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Provide local planning board minutes to school board, on a monthly basis.	C/M/P	
Periodically update the school board regarding the review of site and development plans of proposed, large scale developments that come to the County for review under NYS General Municipal Laws 239-L, 239-M and 239-N.	C/P	
Work with school boards to coordinate the preparation of updates of their long range plans and location of future school sites with County's strategic plan land use strategies.	C/P	
Encourage coordination of planning between schools and local governing bodies to ensure that plans for the construction and opening of public educational facilities are facilitated and coordinated in time and place with plans for residential development, as well as other necessary services.	C/M/P	
Implement a coordinated effort for the search for new funding sources.	C/M/P	
The County and School Board staff should prepare a study evaluating the potential for including schools in a County impact fee system, thus developing a system through which new development contributes to funding for school facilities and services.	C/P	
County should work with local municipalities to establish specific standards for siting and designing schools, including private schools, as well as fire stations, libraries, parks or other public facilities.	C/M	

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Resources

Documents

Organizations and Programs

Funding Sources

Other

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STRATEGY 6.17

Improve the quality of life at schools and the quality of education students receive.

Timeframe

- SHORT TERM
- INTERMEDIATE
- LONG TERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Improve student performance and increase test scores	P	
Create and improve existing programs for at-risk youths.	P	
Support educational programs through the county’s schools and community college that provide a trained workforce for local industries.	P	



Leadership Role: C – County M – Municipality P – Partners
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Resources

Documents

- ◇ Statewide Plan for Higher Education, 2004-2012
- ◇ Comprehensive Education Planning Needs Assessment, 2001

Organizations and Programs

- ◇ *Office of K-16 Initiatives and Access Programs* - www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/home.html
The Office of K-16 Initiatives and Access Programs administers over 115 million dollars in grants, contracts and scholarships to colleges and universities; schools, school districts and BOCES; community based and non-profit organizations; and students. The Office provides technical assistance on innovative strategies to: (1) Improve college graduation rates for ethnic, cultural and other underrepresented and or disadvantaged students; and (2) Close the gap for students in need of academic intervention services to meet the Regents graduation requirements.

Funding Sources

- ◇ *University of the State of New York, State Education Department*
Information about Grants and Finance
<http://usny.nysed.gov/grants/>

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STRATEGY 6.18

Improve coordination between service providers and utilize school facilities as true community centers.

Timeframe

SHORT TERM

INTERMEDIATE

LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Improve coordination between the K-12 systems and the community college to reduce redundancy in programs and utilize resources more efficiently.	P	
Establish regular meetings with executives of the eight school districts, the community college and the job corps to foster an exchange of ideas.	P	
Establish better linkages between the public and the private school systems.	P	
Establish a county wide effort to coordinate the towns and the districts use of school facilities after hours. This action should involve three steps: A.) Assess the existing programs and schedules; B.) Organize the existing programs; and C.) Determine what can be shared and expanded.	C/M/P	
Examine ways to strengthen the relationship that currently exists between towns and school districts (utilize Town of Fallsburg as a model) and ways to improve the programs, without causing additional financial burden on schools (i.e., if towns can provide transportation for certain programs, etc.)	C/M/P	



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Resources

Funding Sources

- ◆ *21st Century Community Learning Centers Formula Grant - www.ed.gov*

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STRATEGY 6.19

Ensure that the county’s library system meets the needs of a growing population

Timeframe

- SHORT TERM
- INTERMEDIATE
- LONG TERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Invite library representatives to faculty meeting to educate teachers about resources available through Ramapo-Catskill Library System (RCLS).	P	
Make teachers aware RCLS exists as a resource for professional development.	P	
Continue practice of alerting libraries to topics students will be researching.	P	
Involve students and parents in library open houses to work toward building a bridge between parents and children.	P	



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Resources

Documents

- ◆ The Campaign to Save America's Libraries Toolkit. February 2005
- ◆ Toolkit for School Library Media Programs. 2003
- ◆ Public Library Law in New York State. May 2002
- ◆ Fact Sheet 2 - RCLS Technology Plan, 2001-2004

Organizations and Programs

- ◆ *Ramapo Catskill Library System* - www.rcls.org
The Ramapo Catskill Library System is one of twenty-three Public Library Systems in New York State organized as State-funded programs designed to support over 1,000 public libraries and neighborhood branches. (online access to all library catalogs and resources)
- ◆ *American Library Association* - www.ala.org
The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 64,000 members. Its mission is to promote the highest quality library and information services and public access to information.
- ◆ *Library Support Staff* - www.librarysupportstaff.com
- ◆ *Americans for Libraries Council* - www.lff.org
The Americans for Libraries Council is a national nonprofit that advocates for libraries at the national level and develops and promotes programs aimed at realizing the potential of libraries in the 21st century.
- ◆ *Public Library Association* - www.pla.org
The Public Library Association enhances the development and effectiveness of public library staff and public library services.
- ◆ *New York State Library*. Division of Library Development - www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/

Funding Sources

- ◆ Library Funding in New York State
<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/fundlaw.htm>
[http://www.librarysupportstaff.com/find\\$.html#fund](http://www.librarysupportstaff.com/find$.html#fund)