



CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
High Performance School at
Cesar Chavez Education Center, Oakland, CA

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The Challenge

Today's California schools are facing quite a list of challenges, which includes tight budgets, an ever increasing student enrollment (1 in 8 students in the United States are educated in CA schools), a growing need for the renovation and building of many schools, and most importantly a higher expectation of faculty and student performance among these compelling circumstances. Every year CA schools spend \$700 million a year on energy; nearly 3% of their total budget and about the same amount as on books and supplies.

Technology Demonstration

When the Oakland Unified School District built the new Cesar Chavez Education Complex, they set a goal for the new campus to be as energy efficient as possible. The Complex would house two small elementary schools with shared multi-use facilities and open space plus a 72 student child development center.

The Cesar Chavez Education Complex was built using guidelines developed by the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS), a non-profit organization made up of utility and government representatives, architects and school facility managers who provide design information, services, training and incentives for creating energy efficient schools. The California Energy Commission contributed design support to make this school a CHPS Demonstration School.

**Cesar Chavez Education
Center**

- 95,000 sq ft 2-story building
- Construction cost: \$240 per sq ft
- 600 students
- Opened January 2004
- 1st yr energy use: 25% less than typical school of same size and use

**Energy Efficient/Environmental
Design Features**

- Daylighting
- Natural ventilation
- High efficiency light fixtures with occupancy sensors
- Operable windows
- Single-zoned, constant volume packaged roof top air conditioner units
- Metal deck roof with R-30 insulation
- R-13 wall insulation
- Low-Emitting building materials
- Recycled content products

Benefits

- Lower operating costs (20-40% less for energy and water)
- Improved student and teacher health and higher attendance
- Better student performance
- Onsite teaching opportunity in advanced technology and building design
- Frees up scarce resources for books, supplies, equipment