



# INFORMATION

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## **Guidelines for Projects Choosing Between LEED for Schools and Other LEED Rating Systems**

USGBC recognizes the need for clear guidance for project teams who are working on educational buildings and who are seeking to understand if those buildings qualify as 'schools' for the purposes of registering for LEED certification. The guidelines below were approved by the LEED Steering Committee on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Any questions regarding these guidelines should be directed to [schools@usgbc.org](mailto:schools@usgbc.org).

If a project meets both of the conditions listed below, the project must seek certification under the LEED for Schools rating system *unless* it wishes to seek certification under a rating system that is not LEED for New Construction or LEED for Schools (such as LEED for Commercial Interiors or LEED for Existing Buildings). Educational facilities that do not meet the two conditions listed below have the option to seek certification under the LEED for Schools rating system - but may choose to use the LEED for New Construction rating system if it better fits the needs of the project.

- 1) The combined core and ancillary learning spaces intended for regular use for any grade between Kindergarten and 12th grade make up 75% or more of the total square footage.
- 2) Core learning spaces make up at least 25% of the total square footage.

In order to define core and ancillary learning spaces the USGBC draws on ANSI S12.60-2002 Standard Acoustical Performance Criteria, Design Requirements, and Guidelines for Schools, page 3. 'Core learning spaces' include classrooms, instructional pods or activity areas, conference rooms, libraries, offices, speech clinics, offices used for educational purposes and music rooms for instruction, practice and performance. 'Ancillary learning spaces' includes informal learning: corridors, cafeterias, gymnasias and indoor swimming pools.