

Top Five Findings:

Exploring the impact of school bonds

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Top Five Findings

- Spending on capital projects is less impactful on student test scores than spending on school operations.
- Most, but not all, researchers find that capital projects increase student test scores, but these impacts can take several years to materialize. New schools or major renovations typically involve a transition period (i.e., flat student achievement) at the beginning.
- Some studies show that new school construction may have the strongest impacts on test scores for disadvantaged students and may even benefit students who remain at the original facilities due to less crowded learning environments.
- School bonds increase house prices in the affected school districts and communities.
- More research is needed to understand the impact of bond measures on teacher attrition and retention, as well as broader-based studies that can better represent the diverse school contexts across the nation.