The Case for Green Schools  ●  November 16, 2009

What is a Green School?
A Green School is:
• A school that saves money by reducing energy, water, disposal, and maintenance costs
• A healthy place to learn and teach
• A demonstration of environmental stewardship

Why is a Green School a healthy school?
• A green school is designed to provide adequate daylight and fresh air

Do Green Schools cost more than standard schools?
• Not necessarily. Many green strategies are free or provide immediate return-on-investment.
• An October 2006 report entitled “Greening America’s Schools: Costs and Benefits” looked at 30 high-performing schools from Georgia to Hawaii:
  o The green cost premium averaged 1.65% and ranged from 0.00% to 6.27%
  o Energy savings averaged 33.4%
  o Water savings averaged 32.1%

Why should Mississippi consider third-party certification of green schools?
• Green building standards (including the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED standards) offer a yardstick – a way of measuring success.

Who has adopted LEED or other green building standards?
• States that require or encourage green building certification include Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Ohio.
• The U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, and the U.S. Navy all have sustainability standards. The Navy was the first federal agency to certify a LEED project.
• Numerous municipalities and counties, including Nashville, Tenn., and Starkville, Miss.

Educational Design Institute at Mississippi State University
• Created in 1997 by an act of the Mississippi Legislature
• Funded annually by a Mississippi Department of Education Grant
• Provides master planning and pre-design services to school districts; updates and distributes the Mississippi School Design Guidelines; helps educate MSU architecture students
• Has worked with 16 school districts since the summer of 2008