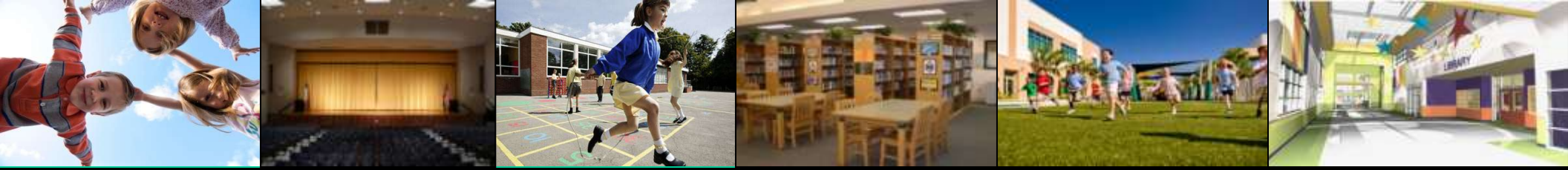




“Opening the Doors to Shared Services: Redefining Your School as Community Centers and Economic Engines”





Introductions

- Nicole T. Allen, AICP Planning Services Manager Laberge Group
- Bob Horan, Superintendent – Schodack Central School District

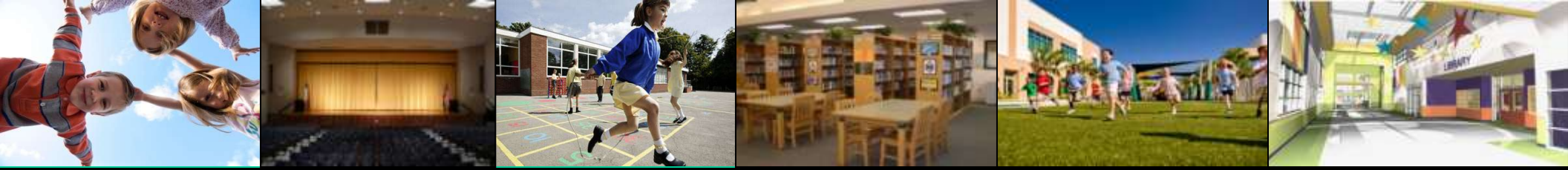




Empty Classrooms...Empty Buildings

- Enrollment declines are now affecting the vast majority of school districts in New York State.
- From 2000- 2010 alone, New York State has lost 3% or 90,664 students.
- According to the NYS Association for Superintendents of Buildings and Grounds, there are 3,050 public school buildings in New York State.
- According to Patterns for Progress, in the Hudson Valley more than 30 school buildings were closed between 1999 and 2012 with more to come each year.





Empty Classrooms...Empty Buildings

- **Cornell has projected school enrollments will continue to drop through 2020.**
- **Babies: there are fewer of them. In the Hudson Valley alone, the birthrate has dropped by 11% from 2001-2011.**
- **Continuing unemployment and a sparse influx of new jobs is impacting family size.**
- **Housing, day care and health care costs are factors when young families decide whether they can support more than one or two children.**

Source: Patterns for Progress

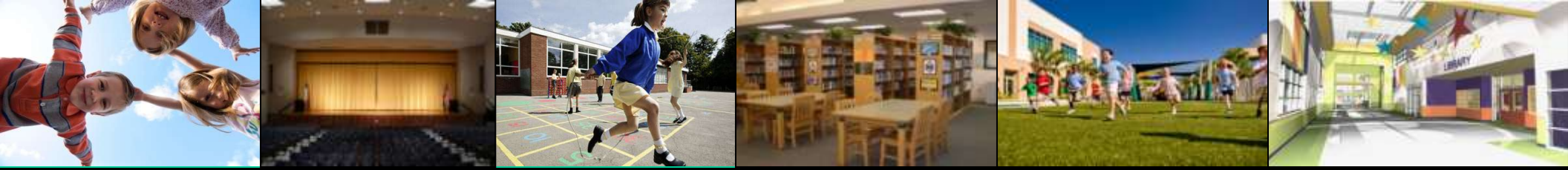




Preaching to the Choir

THE DILEMMA FACING COMMUNITIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE BOARDS OF EDUCATION

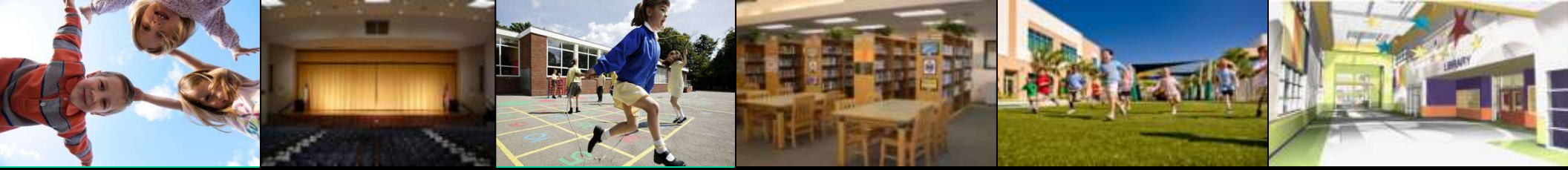
1. State aid to support local school districts may stay close to flat for the foreseeable future;
2. The capacity for local taxpayers of a school district to shoulder more revenue responsibility through property taxes may or may not be possible;
3. School district communities are expecting higher measured student achievement for all students;



Preaching to the Choir

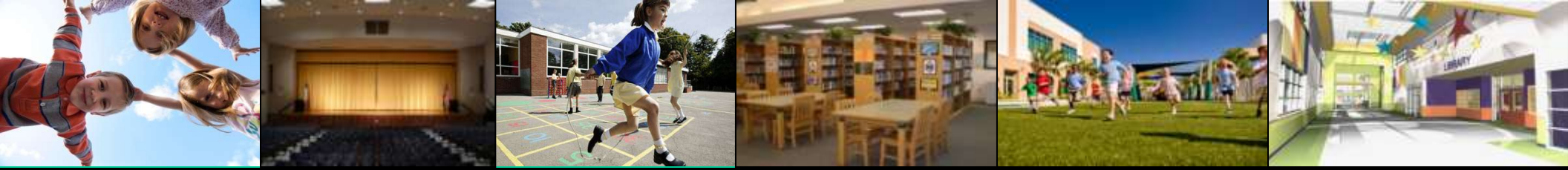
OTHER VARIABLES AT WORK AFFECTING THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

- A. Declining community population and a declining school-age population, 2/3 of NYS population resides in 12 downstate counties;**
- B. Declining job market opportunities;**
- C. Rural NYS experiencing a 44% less growth in property values compared to metro areas of the State;**
- D. Increasing health insurance and employee pension costs;**
- E. Unfunded mandates expected of school districts;**



Local Government Shared Services – Guiding Principle

What we are hearing in our communities



What we are hearing that communities need

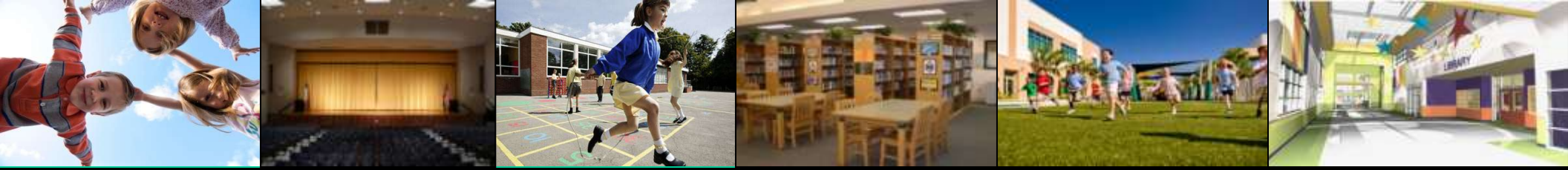




You already paid for it



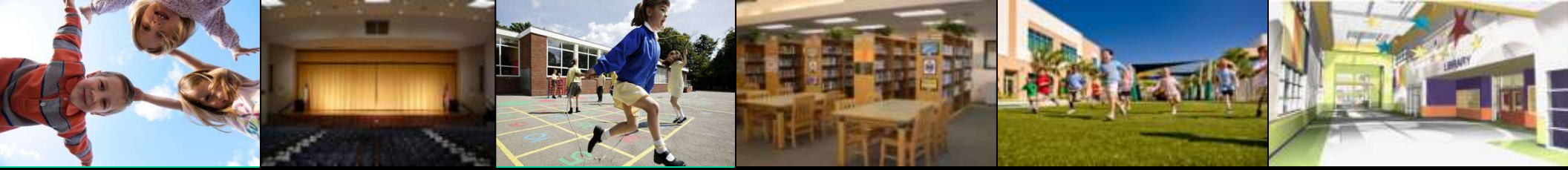
- Community theater
- Dance recitals
- Music/Performing Arts
- Community Movies
- Meeting space



You already paid for it



- Little League fields
- Fitness Trails
- Senior Activities
- Soccer/lacrosse
- Softball
- Adult leagues



You already paid for it



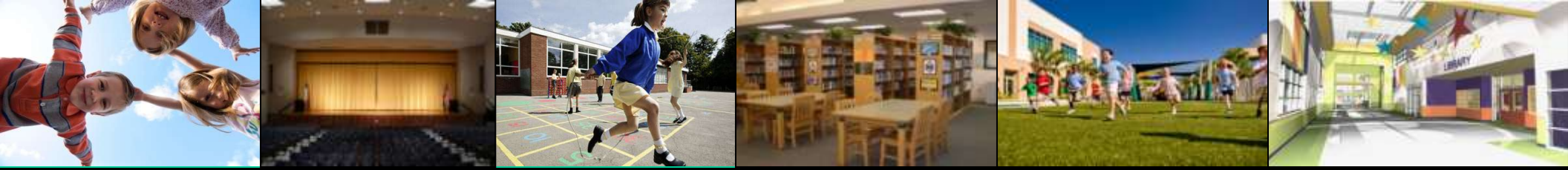
- Library
- Senior access to internet
- Multi-media Room
- Community meeting rooms
- Video-Conferencing



You already paid for it



- Community flex –space
- Yoga
- Craft rooms
- Adult education



Examples of Adaptive Re-Use of School Facilities



Town of Bethel



Town of Amenia



Town of Colonie



Town of North Greenbush



Examples of Adaptive Re-Use of School Facilities



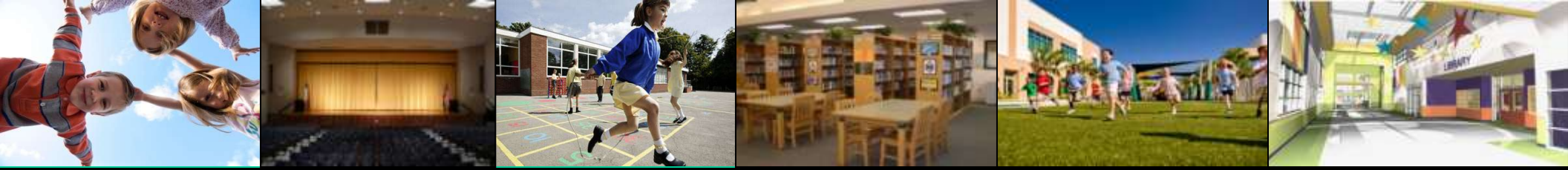
The Watkins Glen Middle School has been slated for conversion into :

- 51 senior housing units
- Auditorium and Gym will be used as a community center or YMCA





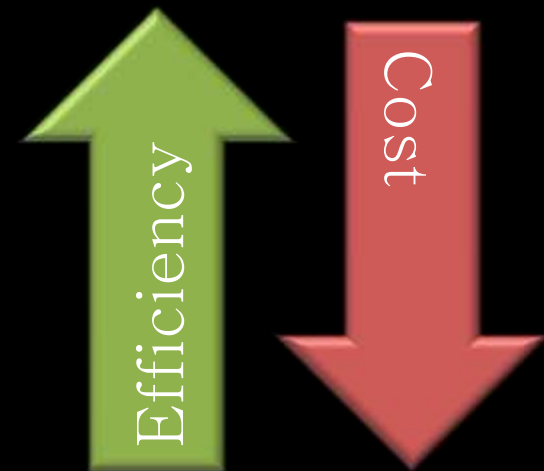
**“If you do what you've always done,
you'll get what you've always gotten.”**



Local Government Shared Services

Key Impact on Local Government:

- To contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of local governments.
- To eliminate or minimize duplication of services.
- To share resources and specialized skills.
- To improve service through timeliness, quality and cost management of common services.
- To focus on services that can be better provided through sharing or consolidating than they could by individual agencies.



So why not look at schools as part of the solution?



Schodack Central School District

Redefining the Role of Schools in the Community





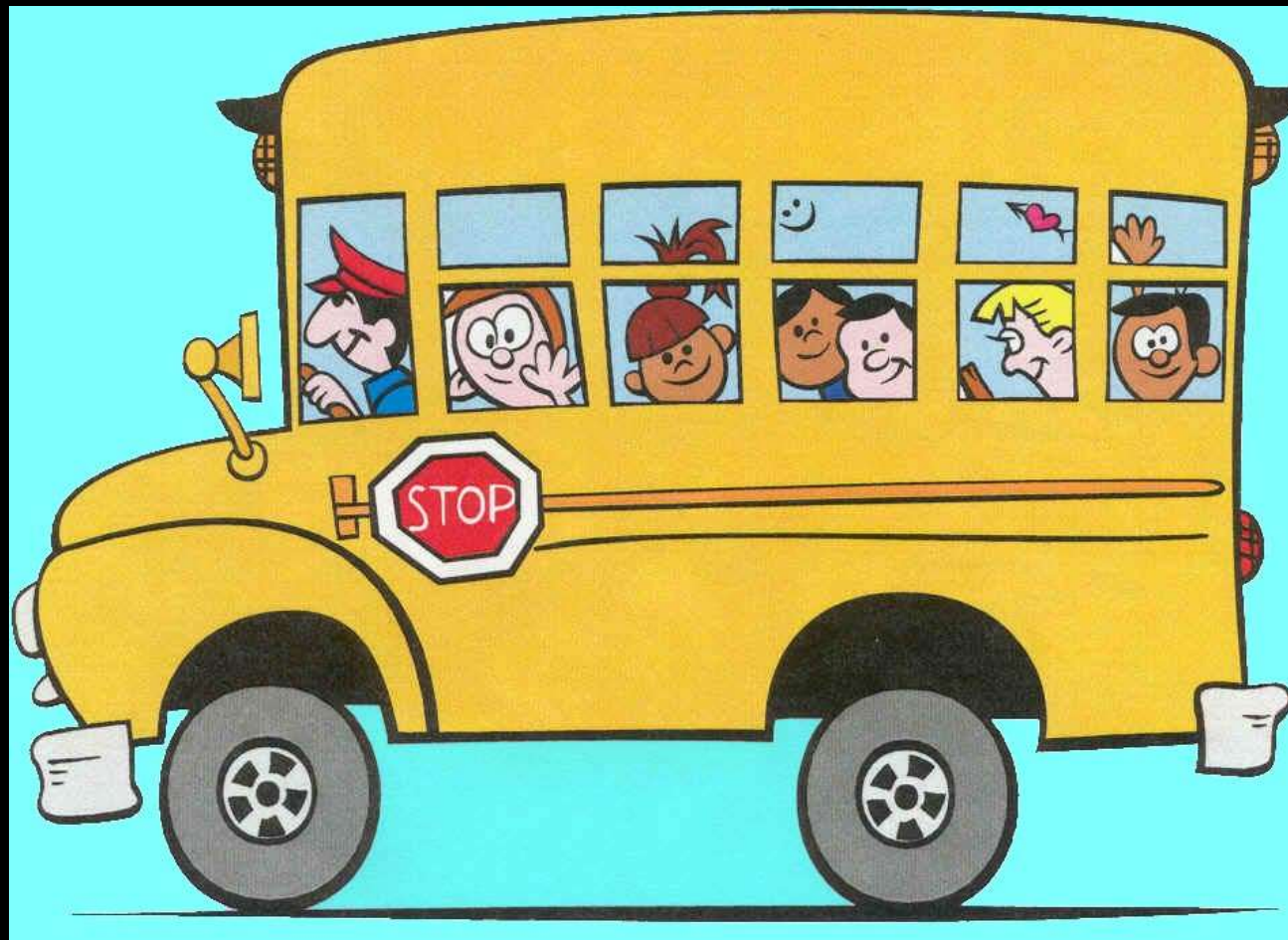
Common Themes



- Facilities go dark by 4:00
- Public Gymnasiums are open all night long – why not us
- Vacant space - basements, closed buildings
- Goal should be to re purpose
- Last resort would be to close a building



All Quiet After 4:00





Converting School Facilities into a Town Center

Opening the Doors to the Community

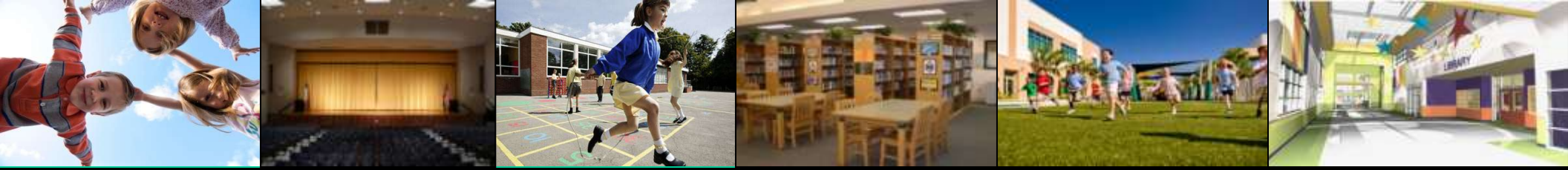




Converting School Facilities into a Town Center

Opening the Doors to the Community





Converting School Facilities into a Town Center

Opening the Doors to the Community





Converting School Facilities into a Town Center

Opening the Doors to the Community





Available Space

Opening the doors to innovation

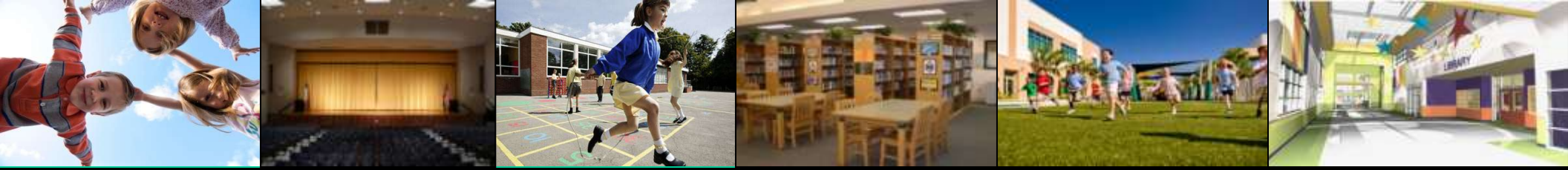




Converting School Facilities into a Town Center

Opening the doors to innovation





Converting School Facilities into a Town Center

Opening the doors to innovation



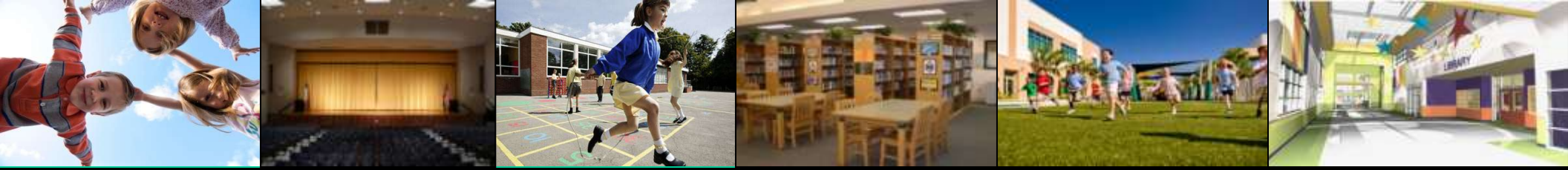


Converting School Facilities into a Town Center

Share in the Gain – Group Discussion



Yes – you all have to participate



Converting School Facilities into a Town Center

Share in the Gain – Group Discussion



- How many of you have declining school enrollment?
- Are you considering school closures?
- What adaptive reuse options are you considering?
- Are you considering school consolidations?
- What community based activities are you considering as potential school partnerships?



For further information contact:

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