

Willoughby-Eastlake Schools

Building Renovation Provides Energy Savings and New Resources to the Community

Located in Lake County, the Willoughby-Eastlake School District serves students from Eastlake, Lakeline, Timberlake, Waite Hill, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills and Willowick.

Challenge

Faced with aging building infrastructure in need of major improvements, updating and renovation, the Willoughby-Eastlake School District was entertaining ways to implement Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) and repurposing an existing building to house an education program for autistic and special needs students.

Solution

Gardiner worked directly with the School District and administered an investment grade audit for ten of the eleven school facility buildings. Lighting upgrades and retrofits were implemented throughout the ten facilities along with a boiler replacement at Willoughby Middle School. With all of the savings in energy and operating costs, the District decided to use the money it was saving to completely renovate the Kennedy Building. It was built in the 1960's and 80% of the space left vacant for 25 years. The vacant space would soon be home to Kennedy Early Learning Center and Kennedy Academy, an autism center and a program for emotionally disturbed students in the area. As part of the renovation, HVAC equipment, windows, doors, roofing and lighting were all replaced. The HVAC units were integrated into the controls system. A new gas service was installed along with a security system, ceilings, flooring, walls, fire protection, locker rooms, cabinetry and other general construction trades. All of the construction and renovation work was completed without disturbing the preschool and within the facility's schedule.



Kennedy Building • Willoughby, OH

The Kennedy Building is the new home to the Kennedy Early Learning Center and Kennedy Academy, a state-of-the-art Autism Center and a program for emotionally disturbed students and special needs children.

Project Overview

- House Bill 264
- Lighting Retrofits in 10 School Buildings
- Boiler Replacement at Willoughby Middle School
- Complete Renovation of the Kennedy Building
- Kennedy Academy Built for Students with Autism and Special Needs
- Kennedy Early Learning Center Built

Willoughby-Eastlake Schools

Building Renovation • House Bill 264

Results

This District was able to utilize House Bill 264 to secure low interest funds for the ECMs throughout their buildings and for the renovation of the Kennedy Building. The renovation has saved the District 4,375,545 KWH or \$662,619 in energy savings. By being able to provide the community with the Kennedy Academy for Autism, the District no longer has to send students outside the District for these resources. The Willoughby-Eastlake School District is saving over \$600,000 annually. The new Kennedy Early Learning Center has also created new jobs for the community through the hiring of new teachers and staff members. The estimated energy savings combined with bringing the autism and special needs resources to the district have produced a savings of \$1,262,619 annually. Additionally the district has improved both the teacher morale and student achievement per Superintendent Steve Thompson, see comments below:

“The greatest impact has been in the attitude of the students and staff. The improvements made to the facility have enhanced the way students view school and how the teachers do their jobs, which leads to better student achievement.”

Steve Thompson, Superintendent



Annual Energy Savings

- \$662,619 Energy Savings
- Electricity savings of 4,375,545 kWh
- \$600,000 Saving in Operating Costs with the Opening of the Autism Center in the Kennedy Building
- Estimated \$1,262,619 in Energy Savings and Operating Cost Savings Combined
- Project Payback: 6.85 Years

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