

THE PURPOSE

The New York City Educational Construction Fund was created to carry out a new program of urban development, the construction of elementary and secondary public schools in combined-occupancy buildings. The Fund is a public benefit corporation, a State-authorized, self-supporting institution most commonly called an authority, established to finance the construction of public schools for the City of New York. It is governed by nine unsalaried trustees, five of whom are members of the Board of Education.

The program is intended to achieve three objectives:

1. *Maximum use of land*

Construction sites are becoming increasingly scarce in the City. Those that remain must be used with maximum effectiveness. To enable new schools to be built in conjunction with other facilities, the Educational Construction Fund has been given as its principal purpose "the timely and responsive provision of such combined-occupancy structures in accordance with the foreseeable needs of the City of New York..." (Statement of legislative findings and purposes, Article 10, Education Law)

2. *Financing outside the City's capital budget*

The need for a massive school construction program has developed at the same time as many other demands for capital improvements. The Fund is a new source of financing outside the City's capital budget for a substantial school construction program. Its operations will increase the rate at which new schools can be built. In addition, the Fund will provide the public school system with additional schools that could not be built under the City's debt limit.

3. *Reinforced economic and social vitality*

Combined-occupancy structures will provide new schools in several kinds of settings. In commercial areas, specialized high school programs, such as the co-op program offering experience training together with skills training, could train the highly-skilled graduates required by the business community. In residential areas, schools and housing in the same structures should foster a more cohesive neighborhood life. Some areas—such as those scheduled for extensive redevelopment—might well lend themselves to any combination of facilities such as child care and Head Start centers, commercial facilities, moderate-income housing and a school.