

# J.O. Ford Elementary

West Contra Costa Unified School District, Contra Costa County

School of the Month

April 2012



The new sustainable J. O. Ford Elementary School, designed by Sally Swanson Architects, is a hybrid School Facility Program project that incorporates Modernization and Overcrowding Relief Grant funding. The 68,000 square foot school includes 26 classrooms housing 384 students

on a two-acre site in Richmond. The original school, built in 1949, was an outdated and unsafe learning environment that offered the community few amenities and little sense of ownership. In contrast, the replacement school has been tailored to educate the

## Modernization

State Funds	\$3.40 million
Funding Approved	April 2010
Funding Received	December 2010

## Overcrowding Relief Grant

State Funds:	\$3.84 million
Funding Approved:	January 2010
Funding Received:	December 2010



Office of Public School Construction  
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD



whole child. A highly collaborative bilingual planning and design process has resulted in joint-use spaces, innovative technology and security systems, and a green and energy-saving campus.

Additional features of J. O. Ford

Elementary School include:

### Whole Child Learning

- The school's framework, on a 30-foot grid, creates flexibility for a variety of alternative teaching methodologies
- A MircoSociety learning program is accommodated with corridors



that transform into a "street" for learning

- Colors, shapes, wayfinding and fenestrations emphasize a child's point-of-view

### Community Design

- A community garden, mini soccer field, and plaza offset the dearth of neighborhood open space
- After-hours joint-use with the community of the kitchen, multi-purpose, library, and computer rooms
- Adult education classroom

### Modernization

State Funds	\$3.40 million
Funding Approved	April 2010
Funding Received	December 2010

### Overcrowding Relief Grant

State Funds:	\$3.84 million
Funding Approved:	January 2010
Funding Received:	December 2010



Office of Public School Construction  
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

## Sustainability

- J. O. Ford Elementary earned the second highest Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) rating in the state
- 100% day lighting in classrooms
- Eco-plantings and bio filtration swales

The learning environments merge outdoor programs and educational play equipment with formal classroom spaces. Advanced technology, with closed circuit cable and 5-internal channel TV, allows programs and teaching lessons to be recorded and replayed. This had led to J. O. Ford Elementary School attracting new students and increasing parent participation.



## Modernization

State Funds	\$3.40 million
Funding Approved	April 2010
Funding Received	December 2010

## Overcrowding Relief Grant

State Funds:	\$3.84 million
Funding Approved:	January 2010
Funding Received:	December 2010



Office of Public School Construction  
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD