DISASTER-PROOF SCHOOLS
A National Challenge

NANCY E. BAILEY
BARRY H. WELLIVER
EDWARD C. WOLF

PLENARY: CREATING SAFE SCHOOLS
NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE
CONFERENCE
APRIL 13, 2012

“Schools answer vulnerability with preparedness . . .”
“Buildings, Not Drills, Hold Key to Disaster Proof Schools”

EDUCATION WEEK, July 18, 2011

“. . . Students dropped, covered, and held on in aging buildings that have never been strengthened to withstand earthquake shaking. As school safety advocates in three cities whose public schools share those deficiencies, that disconnect disturbs us.”

Molalla High School, Molalla, Oregon
Destroyed by Scotts Mills earthquake (M 5.6), 1993

Photo by R. Rocheff
“Isn’t it time for state legislators, who mandate school attendance, to sweep complacency aside and fix schools with deadly defects?”

Students exit Grant High School (URM, built 1923) after earthquake drill, May 2011, Portland, Oregon
Memphis City Schools/Shelby County

“The school district’s latest five-year capital plan does not mention the word ‘earthquake.’”

Central High School, Memphis, Tennessee
Unreinforced Masonry (URM), Built 1911
UTAH

“State lawmakers, even in family-friendly Utah, have yet to take up the cause.”

Clearfield High School, Davis County, Utah
Opened 1961
UT Schools RVS Pilot Study

September 2010 – January 2011

- FEMA supported (cooperative agreement funding, training and technical support)
- Survey 128 school buildings throughout state
- Structural engineers as screeners
- Used study to support legislative efforts
- Published “Utah Students at Risk”

OREGON

“A state grant program . . . received $7.5 million in life support from legislators in 2011. A couple of dozen schools will be fixed, but hundreds remain dangerous.”
Franklin High School, Portland, Oregon
Unreinforced Masonry (URM), Built 1915

“We persist in quixotic exercises, staging earthquake drills in classrooms that could pancake the day an actual earthquake strikes.”
A national challenge...

THEMES FOR A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

✓ Mandate to educate = mandate to protect
✓ Document the vulnerability
✓ Expand the conversation
✓ Grow the constituency
✓ Recruit champions and allies
✓ Justify the investments
✓ Expect setbacks
✓ Celebrate accomplishments!
Floyd Light Middle School, Portland, Oregon
Retrofit with state support, summer 2011

“EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO ATTEND SCHOOL IN SAFE BUILDINGS.”
SAFE@SCHOOL FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLES
ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (2011)
THANK YOU!