

## OVER/UNDER BUDGET SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COSTS

*A partial list of school construction projects where Pennsylvania School Districts could have saved money had they chosen to bid their project using the multiple-prime bid process*

**PROJECT:** Pottsgrove School District- Ringing Rocks Elementary  
**DATE:** August 2011  
**DETAILS:** Renovation and expansion project totaling \$14.5 million with a \$6,524,000 general contract.

Original School Board Estimate	\$14,500,000
Multi-Prime Base Bid Total	\$13,000,000
Multi-Prime savings	\$1,500,000
	Multiple-Prime bid provides a 10.3% savings

**PROJECT:** Bensalem Township School District – Valley Elementary School  
**DATE:** May 2011  
**DETAILS:** The Bensalem Township School District went \$1.4 million over budget on a construction project at Valley Elementary School. The project was bid using single-bids, and was originally estimated to cost \$5 million with a high-end estimate of \$6.25 million. Finals bids came in higher than expected and the project was approved for a budget total of \$6.4 million.

Original School Board Estimate	\$5,000,000
Single-Prime Bid	\$6,400,000
Amount Over Budget	\$1,400,000
	Single-Prime bid was 28% over budget

**PROJECT:** Kennett Stadium  
**DATE:** January 2010  
**DETAILS:** The total amount of bids equals \$20,593,136 or \$3,644,535 less than the original construction costs estimate.

Original School Board Estimate	\$20,593,136
Single-Prime Bid	\$24,237,671
Amount Over Budget	\$3,644,535
	Single-Prime bid was 17.7% over budget

**PROJECT:** A.M. Kulp Elementary School  
**DATE:** August 2008  
**DETAILS:** A.M. Kulp Elementary School was put out for bid both ways but no single-prime bid was received because the single-prime brokers knew they couldn't beat multiple-prime.

Original School Board Estimate	\$18,900,000
Multiple-Prime Bid	\$16,486,700
Amount Under Budget	\$2,413,300
Multiple-Prime bid provided a 12.8% savings	

**PROJECT:** The Springfield Area School Board – The Springfield Area Literary Center  
**DATE:** July 2008  
**DETAILS:** The board sought bids using the single-prime bidding process and awarded an \$18 million contract to a general contractor (GC) named E.P. Guidi and Associates. The contract awarded is \$2.89 million more than the project's original budget.

Original School Board Estimate	\$15,108,390
Single-Prime Bid	\$17,999,000
Amount Over Budget	\$2,890,610
Single-Prime bid was 19.1% over budget	

**PROJECT:** Owen J. Roberts School District – Owen J. Roberts Middle School  
**DATE:** June 2008  
**DETAILS:** The school district refused to accept multiple-prime bids even though single-prime bids came in nearly \$8 million over budget. The third single-prime bidder was over \$10 million over the lowest bidder.

Original School Board Estimate	\$35,100,000
Single-Prime Bid	\$43,083,000
Amount Over Budget	\$7,983,000
Single-Prime bid was 22.7% over budget	

**PROJECT:** Penn Manor School District – Martic Elementary School

**DATE:** April 2008

**DETAILS:** Construction project for the Martic Elementary School

Original School Board Estimate	\$5,156,325
Single-Prime Bid	\$5,588,000
Amount Over Budget	\$413,675
	Single-Prime bid was 8% over budget