

## W. G. PEARSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Safe, Healthy, and  
Comfortable Home  
for Students and  
Staff



Size: 82,000 S.F.  
Bid: \$34,042,508  
Completed: August 2006

The new W.G. Pearson Elementary School accommodates 600 students in grades Pre-K through fifth. The building is organized to provide greater safety and security for students and staff, with administrative offices located at the main entrance to allow for visitor supervision. Classrooms are arranged into four “houses,” each containing the classrooms for two grade levels, smaller resource rooms, and a teacher workroom.

With a focus on providing a safe, healthy, and comfortable learning and teaching environment, the design team consulted principles and standards set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council. The new school was designed using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System version 2.1 and earned a LEED certified rating. High performance features incorporated into the building’s design include:

- daylighting to provide high-quality light and reduce the use of artificial lighting;
- low-emitting adhesives, sealants, paints, and carpet for better air quality;
- permanent temperature and humidity monitoring;
- mechanical equipment free of ozone-depleting HCFCs and halons;
- highly-reflective metal and membrane roofing to help reduce building cooling loads;
- waterless urinals, low-flow lavatories, and classroom sinks to reduce water use by 27 percent;
- native and adaptive landscaping, which further reduces water use by eliminating the need for permanent irrigation;
- recycled and regionally-manufactured building materials; and
- educational signage to highlight the school’s green features.

In addition to the above mentioned features, renewable energy credits have been purchased to offset 100 percent of the school’s electricity use over the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 school years.

