

**ACOUSTICS2008/3407**  
**Education vs. Cost - Difficulties in Implementing Acoustical**  
**Design Standards in Classrooms**

Patricia Scanlon, James Perry and Victoria Cerami  
Cerami & Associates, 404 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018, USA

Good acoustical design standards for classrooms are established - quiet background noise levels due to mechanical systems and exterior sources, use of absorptive finishes to control reverberation, walls, doors and floors able to control airborne and impact noise transmission. So why do so many schools fail to follow these guidelines? Are private schools even less likely to adhere to these standards? What are the construction and equipment options? We will discuss various educational standards, as well as the reticence of school planners to comply. We will discuss what schools often build, versus what one might say they should build, together with cost comparison. We will review case studies where guidelines were, and were not, followed - examples that reflect the acoustician's mission to educate educators on the value of acoustical design considerations in classrooms.