High Performance/Green Schools are healthy and productive environments. They are also cost-effective facilities that conserve energy, use renewable resources, and have lower annual utility and operating costs. The City of Newton placed an emphasis on reaping the benefits of a sustainable, high efficiency modular building for a classroom expansion at the Oak Hill Middle School. By funding and constructing this building, the city is sending a clear message that sustainability matters.

In general, this Modular Classroom Building was designed to meet the goals of Massachusetts High Performance Schools Protocols (MA CHPS), including the integration of ‘Air Barrier’ construction, daylight harvesting, minimized HVAC systems, and many other ‘Green’ features. An integrated life cycle analysis informed system selections to ensure maximized efficiency.

The ability to relocate one or more of these classrooms over time will maximize their utilization and minimize the risk that one or more of what might have otherwise been four permanent classrooms would go unused or be underutilized after this short-term enrollment ‘blip’ at Oak Hill passes. If one or more of these classrooms is relocated to another city school in the future, the savings in capital construction will be significant. Foundations were poured below grade to accommodate the move and an air barrier was installed between each classroom so that as these classrooms can be sealed up easily and it will not affect the integrity of the air tightness of the remaining portion of the modular building.

To learn more about the green features and materials of this building, please visit the modular building projects area of our website.