

# Meeting Street Earns LEED<sup>®</sup> Certification

## Rhode Island's First LEED-Accredited K-12 School

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Meeting Street was awarded LEED<sup>®</sup> certification by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) for its innovative sustainable design. LEED is the nation's leading program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings, with more than 35,000 projects currently participating.

Designed by Saccoccio & Associates Architects of Cranston, Meeting Street is the first LEED-accredited K-12 facility in Rhode Island. The building was evaluated using the "LEED for New Buildings" Rating System, a benchmark for facilities that are healthy for students, comfortable for teachers and cost-effective.

"Meeting Street is thrilled to have achieved LEED certification because it demonstrates our commitment to our children and families, as well as the community - and continues with our tradition of being a model for others to emulate," noted John Kelly, President of Meeting Street.

Meeting Street's new campus is one of the first inclusive schools in the United States, bringing together children with or without disabilities to reach their full potential. Every aspect of its design was focused on improving the quality of life for students and staff and green design was a tool for achieving that goal.

"Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, US Green Building Council. "Meeting Street efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come."

Architects Mark Saccoccio and Ron Stevenson incorporated many sustainable materials and systems into the planning and design. An existing commercial structure on the site was first demolished and its materials separated for recycling, with the concrete foundation crushed and re-used as the base for the new parking areas. The former Brownfield site was remediated and all waste was responsibly removed.

Carpet, flooring, ceiling tiles and furniture are made with recycled materials, and energy-efficient HVAC systems were installed and automated to monitor and control thermal comfort. Low VOC paint was used throughout the interior. Careful selection of materials is reaping measurable benefits with few students having allergic reactions to the new building environment. Meeting Street also uses a comprehensive in-house recycling program where students learn by example and practice.

The campus promotes alternative transportation by providing HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle)-preferred parking. Cycling to work is encouraged with ample bike storage and available shower facilities. The Meeting Street landscape plan provides accessible green spaces and paths, as well as athletic fields used by students and the community.

Meeting Street has been a leader in the development and education of children with and without special needs for more than six decades. Meeting Street is home to three schools (early childhood, K- grade 8, and high school), an innovative birth to age 6 family support program (including early intervention (birth to age 3) and its varied outpatient practices. It is nationally recognized for its philosophy of inclusion and its commitment to excellence.

Saccoccio & Associates is a full-service Rhode Island architectural firm founded in 1973 with LEED-accredited professionals currently comprising eighty percent of the firm's registered design staff. Its portfolio includes award-winning projects in the academic, civic and commercial sectors, implementing new construction, creative renovations sustainable design, and historic preservation.

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Photo attachments:      MSS-Exterior.jpg  
                                 MSS-Lobby.jpg