

We inherited schools that were designed and built during a time when energy was cheap and waste was not an issue. Huge windows were often part of the design. They brought in sunlight and offered views to the playgrounds and neighborhoods beyond. Heating and cooling vents were usually located below the windows, placed there to keep interior temperatures stable, the children comfortable and secure.

While many of these schools are still valued parts of our communities and serve our children well, characteristics of that original architecture can give today's administrators fits when it comes to expenses. The windows that seemed so inviting years ago are now recognized as sink holes into which many budgets disappear. New replacement windows, usually with a 10 to 30 year payback period, don't always solve the problem either. Heating and cooling vents are still below, directing their expensive conditioned air directly against the glass.

Thanks in part to one mother's vision and determination a different solution has been implemented in a small elementary school in central Wisconsin.

**HeatSaver® Thermal Shades** have been installed in one classroom as a demonstration project. These few shades will offer a different approach and opportunity for energy conservation and savings.



The shades will provide an **R-Value of 6.39**, stop the chill of cold air from coming off the windows, and keep the warm air going into the classroom where it will have the greatest benefit. ***This one wall section now has the highest insulation value of the entire building's exterior.***

As you can see, frames were built on which the shades were installed, thus not touching the original windows at all. The architectural integrity of the building's exterior has not been compromised.

Thanks also to the [Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant](#) which made funding for this project possible.

**HeatSaver® Thermal Shades. Serious Energy Conservation.**