

## Win School Supplies for Students!



BCK-IBI Group will award a \$250 check to two school districts to use toward school supplies. The drawing will be held on September 30.

When you click below, you'll be automatically entered into the giveaway. No purchase Necessary.

[Click here to enter!](#)

## Eligible Expenses for the Building Condition Survey

The SED-mandated Building Condition Survey (BCS) inspection needs to be completed by November 15, 2015. The BCS is a great opportunity for school districts to gain a better understanding of their facilities' conditions. Districts are allotted aid on up to 27 cents per square foot of "occupied" buildings. Aid can be used to complete the required BCS form and any detailed structural or engineering inspection and analysis of any existing system necessary to determine evidence of movement, deterioration, structural failure, probable useful life, need for repair, need for maintenance, and need for replacement. One example of an acceptable expense is an electrical arc flash study. An arc flash study includes detailed analysis, a field survey, and thermal imaging of electrical panels and equipment to determine if there are unsafe electrical conditions. The electrical distribution system will be labeled with equipment tags identifying the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required to work on the equipment. BCK-IBI Group has provided electrical arc flash studies for many of our K-12 clients through our partnership with Matco Electric Corporation's TEGG Service group.

For more information on arc flash studies [click here](#), or contact [Bill Monahan](#).

## Internships Enliven Students' Career Development

BCK-IBI Group is a proud participant in several career development activities in the architecture and engineering industry. From career day presentations at local high schools to Career Expositions, it has been an ongoing goal of BCK-IBI Group to help students interested in architecture and engineering navigate their way through the massive amount of information encountered when choosing this field as a career. In addition, BCK-IBI Group also employs interns at several times during the year to assist in a wide range of activities from schematic design of projects to construction inspection visits.



Clara Lattimore

This past summer, BCK-IBI Group was fortunate to have Clara Lattimore on our team as an architectural intern. This was Clara's third year with us; she first shadowed our architecture team in high school, and then interned after her first two years of college. She is currently entering her third year at Philadelphia University and is enrolled in their College of Architecture and the Built Environment. Her goal is to complete her Bachelor of Architecture degree and eventually become a licensed architect.

When talking with Clara, she appreciated that the internship brought to life how much more dynamic architecture is than just drawing. In school, the strong emphasis on design and technical construction knowledge is the foremost concern. During an internship, added factors of real world constructability, communication, personalities, and business all become major parts of the multi-dimensional problem solving that takes place every day. Clara admitted that while this intensity at times can be overwhelming, it is also very exciting. Clara maintains that although her internship experience has significantly changed her initial ideas about architecture, it has only reinforced her commitment to the career.

BCK-IBI Group is always interested in working with more students. If your students have any interest in the architecture or engineering fields, contact us at [bn\\_info@bigroup.com](mailto:bn_info@bigroup.com).

## SED Maximum Cost Allowance

Did you know? The State Education Department (SED) has a calculation called the Maximum Cost Allowance, which limits the amount of state building aid that can be received for capital projects. This regulation has been in effect for quite some time and states that the Maximum Cost Allowance pertains to all capital projects completed over a 5-year period. For example, if your Maximum Cost Allowance is \$10 million and you completed a \$7 million project 3 years ago, your district would only receive building aid on \$3 million if you were to do a project now. Although this regulation has been in place, it has only been enforced the last couple of years. Therefore, if you are planning a capital project it is very important to review all capital projects completed within the last 5 years. If you would like assistance in calculating your Maximum Cost Allowance, please contact [Steve Thesier](#) to schedule a session for your team or for additional information.



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