## Project Description:

The Freda Markley Early Childhood Center in on Bannister Rd. in Kansas City, Mo., is the flagship project in a bond package passed by the patrons of the Hickman Mills School District and is the district’s first new school building in nearly 40 years. The 42,000-square-foot facility will serve 432 three- and four-year-old children and a staff of 53.

The high albedo “cool roof” coating provides high solar light reflectance and high thermal emitance. The facility includes a tight envelope, high-efficiency heating, cooling and light system and low-flow plumbing throughout — features that will reduce energy use by 30 percent and water use by 20 percent compared to a typical building of its size.

## Goals:

The primary goal of the project is to provide the patrons of the Hickman Mills School District with a new, centralized early childhood education center that accommodates the school’s high percentage of handicapped and developmentally delayed students. The essential design goal was to create a facility that would address the needs of children with varying physical and learning abilities. The building has varying elevations and ramps and steps that help preschoolers develop motor skills and dexterity, each at his own pace.

## Community Benefits:

The center provides a state-of-the-art early childhood education facility that helps put all children in Hickman Mills on a path for success. Since the center is thought to be the only freestanding early childhood center on track for LEED certification in the metro area, it establishes Hickman Mills as a leader in sustainable design among area school districts.

## Funding Sources and Partnerships:

The Freda Markley Early Childhood Center was funded by a comprehensive no-tax-increase bond package passed by Hickman Mills voters in April 2008. The project required partnership and collaboration among a variety of groups and individuals, including Hickman Mills School District leaders, the Board of Education, neighborhood groups, the business community, city council members, state representatives and others.