



**O'HARE NOISE
COMPATIBILITY
COMMISSION**

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FAA, Chicago Award \$6 Million Construction Grant for Sound Insulation at Ebinger Elementary School

Des Plaines, Ill., October 24, 2014--Christian Ebinger Elementary School, located in Ward 41 on Chicago's northwest side, has received \$6 million in grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the city of Chicago for installation of sound insulation. Ebinger is the last of 124 schools to qualify for sound insulation within the O'Hare Modernization Program's build-out noise contour.

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission, an inter-governmental agency committed to reducing aircraft noise in communities near O'Hare, oversees the O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program in cooperation with the Chicago Department of Aviation. (CDA).

In 2007 the CDA tested the school, located at 7350 W. Pratt Ave., and deemed it eligible for school sound insulation with a reading of 60 DNL and a windows open noise level of 55.3 Leq.

In June, 2014 Ebinger received \$468,750 in grants from the FAA and Chicago to cover architectural and engineering costs, environmental and acoustical consultants, environmental testing and administrative expenses. The recent construction grants will cover asbestos abatement, acoustical windows, entrances and HVAC and electrical modifications.

"We are very pleased Ebinger finally began the sound insulation design process last summer," said Dr. Raymond Kuper, chairman of the ONCC School Sound Insulation Committee. "The fact that this school received construction funding so quickly in September underscores the importance of ONCC's School Sound Insulation Program. We were competing for federal dollars against nearly 3,330 other airports."

Both design and construction grants are reimbursed 80 percent by the FAA using Airport Improvement Program funds while the city of Chicago reimburses the remaining 20 percent using approved airline passenger facility charges.

U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-5th District) and Alderman Mary O'Connor (41st Ward) expect the Ebinger project will significantly improve the learning environment for nearly 720 students and staff at the 88-year-old building, as it has in other sound-insulated schools near O'Hare.

In September 2014 two Chicago elementary schools completed sound insulation construction. St. Tarcissus and Farnsworth schools, located within a mile of each other in Ward 45, received \$9.3 million in grants to mitigate aircraft noise for their students and staff.

(more)

The O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program is the largest and one of the oldest programs in the world. It has allocated approximately \$350 million in federal and airport funds to sound-insulate 124 schools near O'Hare with Ebinger as the final school in process.

ONCC, composed of representatives from 38 Chicago, Cook and DuPage communities, and 16 school districts, strives to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding neighborhoods of O'Hare International Airport through home and school insulation, and to reduce, wherever possible, aircraft noise at its source.

For more information, contact Jeanette Camacho, 773-686-3198, or visit oharenoise.org.

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ONCC member communities: Arlington Heights; Bartlett; Bellwood; Bensenville; Bloomingdale; Chicago including Wards 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45; Des Plaines; Downers Grove, Elmwood Park; Franklin Park; Harwood Heights; Hoffman Estates; Itasca; Maywood; Melrose Park; Morton Grove; Mount Prospect; Niles; Norridge; Northlake; Oak Park; Palatine; Park Ridge; River Forest; River Grove; Rolling Meadows; Rosemont; Schaumburg; Schiller Park; Stone Park; Wood Dale and Cook County. ONCC member school districts: 59; 63; 64; 80; 81; 84; 84.5; 85.5; 86; 87; 88; 89; 214; 234; 299; and 401.

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