



Under Construction: Central High School \$32 million science laboratory wing

Biz construction Central 2

Springfield Central High School's new science wing under construction. (*The Republican / Dave Roback*)

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SPRINGFIELD - A \$32 million science laboratory wing is taking shape at **Central High School** and is due to be completed in December.

The project is being financed with \$25.6 million in reimbursements from the **Massachusetts School Building Authority**. That amount represents up to 80 percent of eligible costs.

The three-story science wing will include 12 new laboratories and preparation rooms. In addition, the project will include renovation of six existing science labs on the third floor of the high school, installation of a new roof for the entire school and a new sprinkler system.

The project is part of a statewide push to equip Massachusetts schools to teach science in well-equipped laboratories. Shared prep rooms will allow instructors to prepare for demonstrations and student labs. The prep rooms provide secure storage of materials and equipment

The classrooms are designed for flexibility in the teaching of science, both now and in the future

Classrooms have perimeter counters with sinks, water, gas, power and data utilities, and a mobile demonstration table for the instructor. This creates an open floor plan, allowing flexible arrangements of furnishings for lectures, labs and group study.

Physics classrooms feature ceiling-mounted beams for suspending physical experiments; biology and chemistry classrooms have fume hoods for chemistry experiments.

The design is by DiNisco Design of Boston and the on-site construction manager is Leftfield LLC, also of Boston. Leftfield LLC had done major projects at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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