# How High-Performance Shades Benefit Schools



# Why Shading Solutions Work for Schools

School districts and architects across the country are working to design sustainable solutions that reduce facility construction and operating costs, qualify for government grants, and even enhance student learning. Window coverings help address these challenges in a cost-effective and practical way. Well-designed motorized and manual shading solutions not only save energy and money, but also optimize natural light. As the worldwide leader in window coverings, Hunter Douglas offers the most comprehensive range of solutions available.

### **Payback through Energy Savings**

Simply by managing light and heat at the window, shading solutions generate energy savings that can reach 50% or more. In sun-belt areas, shading systems can pay for themselves in as little as three years. 2

- Window coverings reduce dependence on artificial lighting, harnessing natural light to cut electricity bills significantly.
- They also manage solar heat blocking the sun when it's hot, but not when it's cold – to lower energy consumption of HVAC systems.
- Motorized/automated shading systems track the sun to ensure best performance throughout the day.

### **Improving Student Performance**

Research indicates that students perform better with access to views and natural light. Tests have shown improvements in learning retention of up to 21%.3

- Shades filter direct sunlight to eliminate distractions from glare and reflections off of walls, desks, and computers.
- Translucent shades and perforated blinds maintain good outward visibility while retaining shading performance.
- Most Hunter Douglas interior shades have earned GREENGUARD Children and Schools<sup>SM</sup> certification, ensuring good air quality.



#### **Grant and Bond Incentives for Greening of Schools**

Internal and external shading solutions from Hunter Douglas Contract can be an important part of efforts to improve environmental performance. Schools may qualify for incentives such as the federal stimulus plans of 2009 with proposals that include:

- Use of motorized, sun-tracking shading systems to reduce artificial lighting and increase natural daylighting.
- Use of heat-blocking external shades to lower a building's cooling and heating loads, as part of energy-smart HVAC solutions.

Please visit www.HunterDouglasContract.com/education or call 800-727-8953 for more details and complete product information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lighting Research Center at RPI, "The Potential of Simplified Concepts for Daylight Harvesting," 2005

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Dr. Wouter Beck, unpublished study, 2009

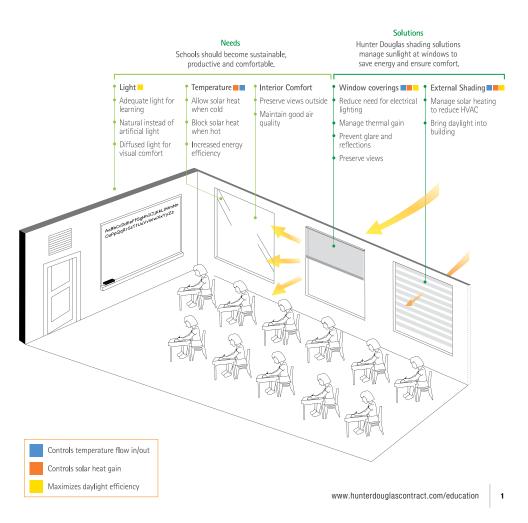
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Heschong Mahone Group, "Summary of Daylighting in Schools: Reanalysis Report," 2003

# Optimizing Light for Learning

When students have access to natural light and views of the outdoors, studies show that they retain more of what they learn. Creating this improved learning environment requires that schools eliminate glare and reflections caused by direct sunlight.

Roller shades, horizontal blinds, and external shading solutions help bring natural light inside while filtering glare. They can also help save energy related to lighting, cooling, and heating schools.

Please call Hunter Douglas Contract at 800-727-8953 for recommendations on how to use shading solutions to optimize daylighting in schools.



### Roller Shades



How: Roller shades manage thermal gain from the sun, saving energy for cooling/heating a building and harnessing natural light to reduce power consumed by light fixtures. The latest generation of metallized and dual-color fabrics shade especially well, with a reflective surface facing out to control light and filter glare, and a darker one facing in for best view-through. In addition, shades installed in a bottom-up configuration can be used to shield occupants from direct sun exposure, while allowing natural daylight at the top of window.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Fabric color is most important for shading performance
- Roller shades can block up to 99% of UV radiation

Contact us at 800-727-8953 for more information.

#### **KEY BENEFITS**

- Wide selection of FR-rated fabrics, from light-filtering to room-darkening.
- Shades are GREENGUARD Children and Schools<sup>SM</sup> certified, and GREENGUARD certified for microbial resistance.
- Motorized shades can automatically respond to the weather and to changing sun positions.

## **Aluminum Horizontal Blinds**



How: One of the best, most versatile devices for shading, aluminum blinds can be raised or lowered to control light and glare. They can also tilt to match the position of the sun and achieve the right quantity of light at any given time of day. Daylighting blinds feature inverted slats in the top portion of the blind, allowing this section to redirect light further into a room, while the bottom portion blocks direct exposure to light and glare. Wider slats provide a higher percentage of view thru and may optimize the daylighting performance.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Hunter Douglas slats have 95% recycled content
- Specialty shapes accommodate a variety of window shapes

Contact us at 800-727-8953 for more information.

#### **KEY BENEFITS**

- Innovative range of finishes, dozens of colors, and custom colors.
- Blinds are GREENGUARD Children and Schools<sup>SM</sup> certified.
- Perforated blinds give glare control and privacy while preserving views to the outside.

### **External Solutions**

Shades, blinds, and louvers mounted outside offer the best performance by controlling light and heat from the sun before it enters a school. Designed for use in a wide variety of hot and cold climates, external shades reduce building energy consumption and can pay for themselves in as little as three years.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- External solutions are the most effective at blocking solar gain
- Motorized shades raise and lower automatically as needed
- External blinds can tilt to redirect light into a building
- External systems are engineered to withstand wind and weather

Hunter Douglas is the worldwide leader in external shading, with roller shades, horizontal blinds, and sun louvers for buildings of any size.

Contact us at 800-727-8953 for more information.

### **External Shades**



How: Motorized external roller shades manage the sun's energy very effectively, controlling light and heat before it reaches the building. With the proper shading fabrics, glare is filtered before it can impact learning performance and views to the outside are not interrupted.

### **External Blinds**



How: External motorized louvered blinds optimize performance by tilting to provide shading at varying sun angles. Similarly, daylighting blinds can tilt to bounce light off the ceiling and redirect it deeper into a space.

### Sun Louvers



How: By shading the building façade, sun louvers control the amount of heat that can enter, helping limit cooling and heating loads. They can also ensure visual comfort by controlling glare. Sun louvers not only deliver outstanding functionality, but also create a distinctive look.

To learn about how shading solutions from Hunter Douglas Contract can help improve the performance of your school - and your students please call 800-727-8953 or visit www.HunterDouglasContract.com/education

