

New Seattle Elementary School Built to Achieve Education Sustainability



Project	Brighton Elementary School
Owner	Seattle Public Schools
Block Supplier	Eastside Masonry Products, Inc.
Contractor	Kassel Construction
GCP Solution	DRY-BLOCK® mortar admixture

The Overview

The Project

When Seattle, Washington voters decided to replace their aging Brighton Primary School with a new \$16 million facility. The modern, two-story school building was built to promote education sustainability and to combine two uses in one—a new space for 535 children, meeting the latest seismic resistance standard and space standards for educational classroom and gymnasium use, and a new community space, where local residents could gather for adult education programmes and meetings.

"We strive to create a 50-year building, so durability is a big factor in how we approach the design."

Ron Tjerandsen, Architect
BLRB Architects



Ensuring the building would be cost-effective was a primary consideration for Seattle Public Schools. The facility was smartly designed to be an example of education sustainability so that unused areas can be shut down and controlled for maximum energy efficiency.

Cost-effectiveness was also one of the reasons why the construction team was required to select an attractive and money-saving alternative to stone. Another important test for the school was whether it could withstand the harmful effects of Seattle's wet weather, which meant the materials needed to handle long-lasting resistance to water penetration.

DRY-BLOCK® integral water repellent block admixture from GCP Applied Technologies was specified to keep the block protected and help maintain its durability and appearance over time. DRY-BLOCK® block admixture is mixed throughout the concrete during the manufacturing process, and combined with DRY-BLOCK® mortar admixture, provides long-lasting resistance to water penetration—even with Seattle's frequent wet, rainy weather. It's the key for building with education sustainability in mind.

"We look to provide the best quality building materials", added Tobias Thiersch, architectural sales representative at Eastside Masonry. "DRY-BLOCK® has a track record of success, and by keeping water out of masonry, it reduces long-term maintenance issues".

The Results

The building's multi-functional utility and quality construction has already earned the approval of teachers, the school's head teacher and the head of the school district. But the real beauty of the building is expected to reveal itself over time in education sustainability—as a lasting, cost-effective and low-maintenance structure.

