

# THE BLAKE SCHOOL

## BRIGHTER LIGHT, BIGGER ENERGY SAVINGS

CASE STUDY  
MINNESOTA



A campus wide LED retrofit is saving The Blake School in Minneapolis a whopping \$32,000 each year in energy costs.

It's all part of capital improvement plans that included energy efficiency work as well as two new buildings on their Hopkins campus.

"We converted most of our interior and exterior lighting on the Minneapolis and Hopkins campuses after hearing about the rebates from Al Joe, our Xcel Energy representative," says Lisa Uhler, Building and Grounds Director at the school. "We have a couple of areas of campus slated for LED upgrades in 2025."

The project included retrofitting 3,033 LED linear lamps, 480 LED pin-based lamps and 212 LED downlight fixture replacements. It also included a thorough explanation of the project detail, costs, schedule, and help filling out the rebate forms, taking the paperwork off Uhler's hands.

"We validated all of our energy savings numbers with Al, so the process was incredibly smooth. I'd recommend it to anyone," Uhler says.

"It is always good to know exactly what is being installed to make sure that all of the products qualify for our program, so there are no surprises at the completion of the project," says Joe, Xcel Energy Account Manager. He frequently works with area schools to help them match budgets and prioritize energy efficiency projects.

Uhler used another Xcel Energy program called Energy Design Assistance (EDA) for the new building on campus which incorporates energy efficiency in the planning and design phase of the project. EDA provides computerized energy modeling to identify various efficiency measures available, potential costs, payback terms and rebates.

The cost of the lighting retrofit was roughly \$79,000 but Xcel Energy rebates of nearly 40 percent made the project very attractive to Uhler. Saving an additional \$32,000 dollars a year in energy costs made it a no-brainer.

"If a school or company is doing significant new build or renovation, I strongly recommend Xcel Energy's lighting and other rebate programs."

**Lisa Uhler,**  
Building and Grounds Director,  
Blake School



**PROJECT DETAIL**

Project	LED Lighting retrofits to 2 of 3 campus locations
Cost	\$79,000
Rebate amount	\$29,300
Total Annual Energy Savings	\$32,000
Demand Reduction	100 kW

"If a school or company is doing significant new build or renovation, I strongly recommend Xcel Energy's rebate programs because working with a third party to create an energy model helps facilitate the discussion between the architect, contractor and other vendors and holds everyone accountable," Uhler says. "Budgets are tight, so to be able to show our CFOO where savings can happen, including rebates as incentives for work completed, makes it a no brainer."

**Ongoing Efforts**

The lighting retrofit is only part of the school's sustainability efforts.

"Many families here are very focused on sustainability and environmental stewardship," Uhler says. "Our Early Childhood Learning Center is the perfect teaching tool that will highlight design elements from the EDA and LEED processes. The new ECLC will be all electric and incorporate geothermal heat. We incorporate curriculum through the 12th grade and are producing highly students with a high environmental awareness."

She says they plan to continue working toward energy efficiency by using less and saving more for years to come.

For more information about Xcel Energy's rebate programs, please visit [xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com).

