



David Breitschuh  
Facilities Manager

Everest Collegiate High School and Academy is an independent, private Catholic school providing K-12 education on a campus of three main buildings, comprising nearly 150,000 square feet. With over 1,700 fixtures and ballasts, and over 4,000 lamps, our lighting costs for energy and maintenance exceeded \$50,000 per year.

The Energy Reduction Coalition offered a unique way to improve our lighting and reduce costs, without investing our own funds, borrowing money, or committing to technology that might become obsolete. Even if the funds were available to convert all of the school's lighting to LED, it would still be a risky proposition – future improvements could make the current technology obsolete. And how could Everest be certain it was purchasing the best product or retro-fitting in the most economical way? And what was the likelihood that foreign manufacturers could be relied upon to stand behind their products? And what if the lamps we purchased didn't provide the kind of light we wanted?

The ERC offered to shoulder all the risk and expense of conversion to LED, while giving Everest the first benefits generated by reduction in operating costs. The ERC is responsible for the cost of maintaining the new lighting, including replacement of any failed lamps and the labor involved. The ERC also gave Everest an inventory of the installed lamps so the school has immediate access to replacement product if one of the new lamps fails.

Where the ERC really stood out was in how responsive they were to our special needs. Everest has a diverse student population with children from around the world and gender specific classrooms after the second grade. It has been proven that girls and boys learn better with different light color temperatures. The lighting at Everest is just as diverse as the student population, using a broad spectrum of color temperatures. We have the typical boys and girls classroom settings as well as sports lighting, and getting those temps right took some trial and error. In addition, we have children who live on campus in a dormitory so we needed to provide those students with a warmer light, something more like a home style setting.

The ERC was completely flexible about what lighting would be installed, quickly responding to our wishes for changes in the color of the light to achieve the effects we wanted. Samples were installed and changes to the conversion plan made as they went along, responding to our wishes to achieve certain effects in different areas of the school.

In addition, the ERC worked around our activities, scheduling the electricians and moving them around so our active use of the facilities would not be compromised. This allowed us to get the conversion done and begin enjoying cost reductions without having to wait.

In the end, Everest got exactly the lighting effects we wanted, along with the cost reductions we needed, with the ERC backing up the product and paying any costs of maintenance if any of the new lights fail. And at any time, if we decide we have the funds to buy all the lighting and take over maintenance, we can always do that.

## **E V E R E S T**

5935 Clarkston Road  
Clarkston, Michigan 48348  
Phone 248.620.3390  
Fax 248.620.3942  
[www.everestacademy.org](http://www.everestacademy.org)

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