References

Katy School TX



Uponor involvement

Paetow High School

- 635,000 square feet
- $196 million project
- Originally specified with copper and CPVC
- District rewrote spec to include PEX
- Completed August 2017

Jordan High School

- 649,000 square feet
- $206 million project
- Uponor PEX plumbing
- Completed August 2020

Products Used

- Uponor AquaPEX

Southern school district leverages Uponor PEX

See how the switch to Uponor PEX increased speed of installation and the material cost savings for this school district in...
A growing student population needs improved school facilities

High schools are an opportunity-rich haven for young adults looking to grow, thrive and inspire those around them. For the quickly expanding, 80,000-student, Katy, Texas, Independent School District (ISD), the eighth high school in the district, Patricia E. Paetow High School, and the ninth school, Jordan High School, are meeting the growing student population with new, state-of-the-art facilities.

Originally specified with copper and CPVC, the school district was looking for other options to value engineer the Paetow project. Plumbing contractor Letsos Company of Houston looked to add PEX to the specification after their success in the Houston waterway project.

PEX piping solutions add value and benefits to the projects

Mike Rostvold, technical sales representative at Uponor, and Jim McStravock of Pepco Sales, met with the engineer as well as the school district's maintenance staff and head of construction to educate on the properties and benefits of PEX.

"The maintenance staff loved it — the ease of the system with no torches or glues, the longevity, the warranty," says Rostvold. "After the meeting, the district rewrote their spec to include PEX."

Ironically, while PEX wasn't in the Katy ISD design standard, it was installed in eight schools previously, being accepted as a value-engineered product.

Connect with Uponor

Get in touch with an Uponor Sales Rep to move forward with PEX piping systems that provide strong, freeze-resistant solutions for schools of all sizes.

Connect with an expert

Project Facts:

Location	Completion
US - Southwest, Texas	2017
Vertical markets	Application categories
K-12	Plumbing
Project Type	
Renovation	

Uponor PEX provides safety, flexibility, cost savings, and freeze resistance

In the winter of 2017-2018, when there was freezing in the area, the only buildings that didn't have pipe failure were the ones plumbed with PEX.

"Freeze protection is just one of the advantages of PEX," says Anthony Gardner, senior plumbing estimator at Letsos Company. "The speed of installation, the flexibility and the material cost savings are also great benefits."

Gardner also states that Uponor's support services, such as field training and jobsite walkthroughs, "help tremendously" to meet tight production schedules on a project.

A senior project manager at Letsos Company, who has proposed PEX via submittal process on two hotels and a high school, agreed that Uponor's support was invaluable, stating the design services team was "very helpful" in getting the job done.

Moving additional projects forward

Jordan High School, which opened in August 2020, saw positive results with significant labor and time savings.

“With the initial installation, we’re seeing significant cost and labor savings with pipe sizes 1" and down,” says Roy Hennick, vice president of CFI Mechanical, the plumbing contractor on the Jordan High School project. “I’d estimate about a 30% savings for the smaller pipe sizes.”

And it appears word is getting around to other school districts about the benefits of PEX.

“Now, many other school districts are jumping on board,” says Rostvold. “We just met with Houston ISD about new construction and re-pipe opportunities, and we now have 13 different K-12 school projects in process.”

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