



Jackson Public Schools

Local Schools, Real Solar Success

- **JPS Dibble Elementary - Jackson, MI**
 - **Project:** Installed a 74.86 kW ballast-mounted rooftop solar array, which avoids roof penetrations by using weighted racking to secure the system.
- **JPS Hunt Elementary - Jackson, MI**
 - **Project:** Installed a 319.68 kW ground-mounted solar array on unused land to provide lower-cost, on-site energy than utility-supplied electricity.
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- **JPS JR Lewis Elementary - Jackson, MI**
 - **Project:** A 126.1 kW ground-mounted solar system was installed and efficiently integrated into the school's site.

Outcome:

These projects help the district meet its renewable energy goals while saving money on energy each year. By producing clean power on-site, it lowers electricity bills and helps keep energy costs more predictable over time. At the same time, it supports sustainability education by turning school buildings into learning tools, giving students real-world examples of renewable energy.

Challenges:

A PPA Agreement made it possible for schools to adopt renewable energy without an upfront investment, allowing them to move forward without diverting funds from educational priorities. By accessing clean energy at a lower utility rate, schools are able to reduce energy costs while gaining long-term financial stability.

Incentives: By installing solar, the JPS district pays a lower, fixed rate for electricity compared with fluctuating utility rates, helping them save on energy costs and better plan their budgets long-term.

WHY SOLAR WORKS AT SCHOOLS:

Predictable Energy Pricing

Schools purchase the power produced at a fixed rate, lower than utility rates, helping stabilize energy budgets and protect against future rate increases.

Student Engagement

On-campus solar reinforces lessons on sustainability and STEM through real-world learning opportunities.

Available Physical Space

Many sites have underutilized land or roof space ideal for solar arrays, allowing schools to generate energy without taking away space needed for students, recreation, or future development.

Minimal Disruption

Installations can be scheduled around school activities and routines, ensuring the solar system integrates smoothly into campus operations.

Low Maintenance

Solar systems operate quietly and require minimal upkeep, helping reduce the workload and long-term responsibilities for facilities staff.