

# St. Joseph School District

New Air-Conditioning and Heating  
St. Joseph, Missouri



## QUICK FACTS

**Total Square Feet:** 265,700

**Number of Buildings:** 5

**Total Project Cost:** \$5,500,000

## ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

- new HVAC units

## BACKGROUND

The St. Joseph School District comprises 16 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 3 high schools, and 4 specialized learning centers. The District had committed to taxpayers to use bond funds to air-condition two middle schools and three elementary schools prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year. They used a competitive RFP process to select Energy Solutions Professionals (ESP) to implement the projects.

## CHALLENGE

The ESP team compressed a six-month project into just two and a half months. Efficient VRF heating and cooling systems were chosen for two middle schools and one elementary, while limited funding necessitated low-cost cooling for two other elementary schools. This accelerated timeline posed challenges, including upgrading electric service at four buildings, coordinating with summer programs, and ensuring sufficient local construction labor to meet deadlines.

## SOLUTION

ESP obtained competitive bids from multiple contractors and vendors to ensure the District received the best pricing and options for new air-conditioning systems. Local contractors and subcontractors, comprising approximately 80 percent of the workforce from the St. Joseph area, were selected for installation. Despite delays caused by storms and utility resource allocation, as well as the closure of an old boiler fuel tank, the team successfully met the goal of having air-conditioning operational before students returned, completing the project in just 53 workdays.

## BENEFITS

Students, faculty and staff returned to a far more comfortable learning environment than they had in previous years. The District now has highly efficient systems in several buildings and cooling in areas where it didn't exist previously. Local labor was used where possible which meant jobs for the community, and the District demonstrated stewardship of taxpayer dollars and resources by accomplishing what they had committed to voters, while reallocating existing equipment to other buildings with needs.

