

# Willie Ross School for the Deaf

Longmeadow, MA

**“While our old boiler wasn’t ancient,  
the difference is like night and day.”**

**Tina Vincent**  
Director of Operations

Originally built as an elementary school in 1917, the main facility had an inefficient steam heating distribution system — previously converted from oil to gas. RISE designed and oversaw the conversion to high-efficiency forced hot water with precision digital controls.



**“We were playing with thermostats all day long.”**

In the Early Childhood Program, the students take naps on the floor. The new heating system has eliminated the cold spots and uneven areas in the building, while adjusting boiler cycling rates for outside temperature levels.

**“Now my biggest maintenance issue is  
replacing the battery in the thermostat.”**

The client has nothing but compliments for the response and professionalism of the RISE project team. Savings and comfort improvements were as promised. And the system’s carefree operation is enabling the Willie Ross staff to stay focused on their daily mission.



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## Heating System Upgrade

### Main Classroom Building

**30%**

yearly savings

**50%**

of dual-boiler system  
paid for by utility

**5-year**

payback

*A Massachusetts Chapter 766-approved Day School for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, the Willie Ross School serves students from 3 years to 22 years of age. Its Total Communication philosophy — including elements of both immersion and inclusion — empowers students to manage and interact with an increasingly complex world.*

