

GREEN SCHOOLS FOCUS

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SERT CHAMPION

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Glare on computer screens and over lighting are problems that continually plague computer users. Kevin Smith, a teacher at Baker MS, addressed these lighting issues with an innovative and energy-saving solution. Mr. Smith purchased several touchière-style lamps for the corners of his computer lab; replacing the incandescent bulbs with low wattage compact florescent spiral type bulbs and then turned off the over head lights. The result was a soft ambient light meeting the required foot-candle (FC) of 15, and elimination of the reflected light in the screens.

It was obvious how much the students preferred the new lighting when Mr. Smith turned on the over-head lighting. The students groaned, covered their eyes and pleaded "Turn out those lights, I can't see my work!"

Mr. Smith is a true SERT champion whose work saves MCPS energy and improves the learning environment. His good ideas deserve to be implemented in every school. Why not use some SERT award money to explore a similar project?