



Making Building Easy  
August 2023

## Early design assistance available



Are you getting started on a project and need some help with layout and design, while keeping value in mind? In recent years, a trend toward early integration of the design/build process has developed into what is now called design assist.

Mid-States Concrete is currently able to offer services to our customers - including layout, design, and value - as early as the schematic design phase, helping customers to keep their projects on-time, on-budget, and on-target. These services are provided for you through our [Preconstruction Department](#) by Tara Loomis, Senior Structural Engineer. Prior to joining the

Mid-States team in 2018, Tara spent 20 years in the consulting engineering field, which exposed her to a wide variety of building materials and systems. Her vast work experiences make her uniquely qualified to evaluate your projects and propose the precast solution that best fits your project's needs.

Getting Mid-States on board early, and working through early design phases together, aids in cost efficient element sizing and helps to limit issues during final design, saving you time and money. If drawings are already underway, we can review the drawings and provide any cost-saving comments to ensure an efficient and economical precast layout. If your project is not a total precast structure, we can help with how the entire structure will be framed, calculate loads, and aid in precast sizing that is critical at the time of design development, truly partnering with you to ensure the success of your project. Determining precast element sizing early saves on drawing modifications later. It also eliminates other issues that often arise when element heights change late in a project. Again, this early work can save time and money later.

Another area we can help is with precast details. If you are unsure which is the correct detail to use on a project, or which is most cost efficient, we are here to assist with drawing development and design. Tara can aid in things from building envelope solutions to advanced building efficiencies and performance, which allows clients to maximize investments in their buildings.

Tara's technical experience, attention to detail, and knowledge of precast efficiencies gives her and the Mid-States team a valuable understanding of how to best support our customers, and ultimately help your project to be successful.

If you are interested in precast design assistance for a project, please contact Mid-States at [sales@msprecast.com](mailto:sales@msprecast.com).

[Find all the latest precast news on our blog >>](#)

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## **New School and Storm Shelter Constructed with Precast Wall Panels and Hollowcore**



When the [El Paso Gridley school district](#) passed a referendum for the construction of a new junior high school, [CORE Construction](#) and [Farnsworth Group](#) got to work to get the project completed on time for the 2022-23 school year.

Construction of the project in Gridley, Illinois included an 80,000-square-foot new junior high school, storm shelter, and expanded space for arts and choir students. Mid-States Concrete provided 178 [wall panels](#), one [column](#), and 59 pieces of [hollowcore](#) plank and solid slabs to meet the precast needs of the project.

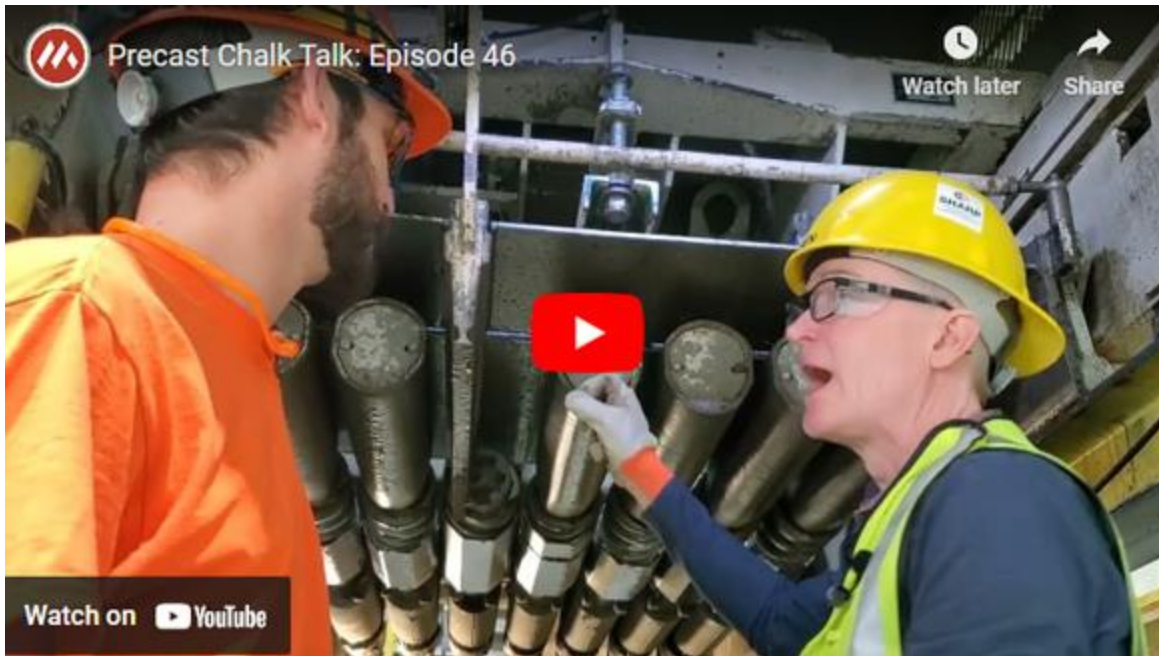
“We chose precast as a means to lower construction costs by saving on install time and labor,” said Aaron Neal, Project Architect with Farnsworth Group. “Initially, our building was all single story, but by condensing the building on the site to a two-story precast building, we were able to lower our building envelope cost, lower our structural cost, and lower our site/civil costs.”

While the hollowcore plank served as a roof for the storm shelter, the wall panels went around the entire perimeter of the school. Some wall panels were used on the interior as well.

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## Precast Chalk Talk: Episode 46



In this episode of Precast Chalk Talk, President Hagen Harker returns to the maintenance department to help with the check of one of our hollowcore extruders, before it gets released back to production.

[Watch now >>](#)

Questions? Comments? Ideas for a future episode? [Email us >>](#)

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## About Mid-States Concrete Industries

Since 1946, we have produced structural and architectural precast concrete systems that provide our partners with high quality building materials with sustaining performance.

The biggest part of our story is you - our clients. For more than 75 years, you have trusted us to help with your projects. Each project offers its own unique goals and opportunities. We partner with you to find the right solutions for your project.

[Learn more >>](#)

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