

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Applications Received Beyond Bond Authority List

### DEFINITIONS

**Q.** *What does “State Allocation Board (SAB) acknowledgment” mean, and how is it different from an Unfunded Approval?*

SAB acknowledgement means that the SAB has taken a formal action only to acknowledge that the application was received. An Unfunded Approval is formally approved by the SAB after full processing by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC).

**Q.** *What is an Approved Application?*

An Approved Application means that OPSC has verified that the school district has submitted the application and all documents that are required to be submitted with the application, such as, in the case of a funding application, copies of the California Department of Education and the Division of the State Architect (DSA) plan approval letters, copies of DSA-approved plans and specifications, a school board resolution, and other applicable documents.

**Q.** *The SAB has several lists. What are they all for?*

The SAB currently uses four lists:

- [OPSC Workload List](#)—This list includes Approved Applications that have been received by OPSC, but have not been deemed Ready for Apportionment and have had limited reviews for completeness.
- [Unfunded List \(Lack of AB 55 Loans\)](#)—This list includes Approved Applications that have been fully reviewed and deemed Ready for Apportionment by OPSC, and have been processed to the SAB for unfunded approval pending the availability of funding under current bond authority.
- [Unfunded List \(Lack of Authority\)](#)—This list, sometimes referred to as the “true unfunded list,” includes Approved Applications that have been fully reviewed and deemed Ready for Apportionment by OPSC, and have been processed to the SAB for unfunded approval pending either the return of bond authority due to project rescissions or voter passage of future SFP bonds.

- [Applications Received Beyond Bond Authority List](#)

—This list includes Approved Applications that have been received by OPSC, have had limited reviews for completeness but have not been deemed Ready for Apportionment, and have been SAB acknowledged but have not received apportionments or unfunded approvals.

### Current Bond Authority Availability

**Q.** *Is there any SFP bond authority still available?*

Yes and no. OPSC has received applications for New Construction and Modernization grants that exceed the available bond authority. The SFP does have bond authority in the Seismic Mitigation Program.

### Application Process

**Q.** *What applications can I submit, and how will they be processed?*

OPSC will accept the following applications for preliminary review for completeness and processing to the SAB Applications Received Beyond Bond Authority List for acknowledgement only:

- Applications for New Construction or Modernization eligibility establishment or renewal, including the following forms:
  - » [Enrollment Certification/Projection \(Form SAB 50-01\)](#)—Used for establishing or updating New Construction eligibility
  - » [Existing School Building Capacity \(Form SAB 50-02\)](#)—Used for initial establishment of New Construction eligibility
  - » [Eligibility Determination \(Form SAB 50-03\)](#)—Used for establishing New Construction or Modernization eligibility, for updating Modernization eligibility, or for updating District Representative information
  - » Any/all required supporting documentation

- [Application for Funding \(Form SAB 50-04\)](#) for New Construction or Modernization projects along with all required supporting documentation

OPSC will not accept applications/requests for the following programs—SFP Regulation Section 1895.95.1:

- Requests for Financial Hardship approval
  - » The requirement for Financial Hardship approval was suspended so that districts are not required to get OPSC pre-approval status before submitting funding applications that include requests for Financial Hardship apportionment.
  - » Any such request must include a school board certification that the district understands that if bond authority becomes available, the district will be required to apply for and obtain financial hardship approval before the funding application can be processed to the SAB for unfunded approval or apportionment.
- Career Technical Education Facilities Program
- Overcrowding Relief Grant Program
  - » Applications will be received within existing bond authority pursuant to SFP Regulation Section 1859.184.
- Joint-Use Program
- Charter School Facilities Program
- Critically Overcrowded School Program

**Q. Do I still need to submit all the supporting documents if there is no funding available?**

Yes. OPSC prefers that larger supporting documents, such as architectural plans and specifications for funding applications and dwelling unit documentation for New Construction eligibility applications be submitted in electronic format, such as on a CD or memory stick. Please ensure these media are properly labeled for easy identification.

**Q. Districts are required to update New Construction eligibility for any year in which they submit a New Construction funding application. How can I submit a New Construction funding application if I can't update my eligibility?**

Although OPSC will not fully process the eligibility application, an [Enrollment Certification/Projection \(Form SAB 50-01\)](#) must be submitted, along with any required supporting documentation, for the year in which the district is submitting any New Construction funding applications pursuant to SFP Regulations.

**Q. Are there any new or different documents I will need to submit?**

Yes. For all funding applications, OPSC will require a resolution adopted by the school district's governing board certifying the following:

- The school board acknowledges that the remaining School Facility Program bond authority is currently exhausted for the funds being requested on this application.
- The school board acknowledges that the State of California is not expected nor obligated to provide funding for the project and the acceptance of the application does not provide a guarantee of future state funding.
- The school board acknowledges that any potential future state bond measures for the School Facility Program may not provide funds for the application being submitted.
- The school board acknowledges that criteria (including, but not limited to, funding, qualifications, and eligibility) under a future State school facilities program may be substantially different than the current School Facility Program. The district's Approved Application may be returned.
- The school board acknowledges that they are electing to commence any pre-construction or construction activities at the district's discretion and that the state is not responsible for any pre-construction or construction activities.

If the application includes a request for Financial Hardship funding, the school board resolution must also include:

- The school board acknowledges that, if bond authority becomes available for the SAB to provide funding for the submitted application(s), the district must apply for financial hardship status.

**Q. If my district has a New Construction funding application on the Applications Received Beyond Bond Authority List, and the district completes the project and occupies the structure before bond funds become available, will the application still be eligible for funding?**

SFP Regulation Section 1859.70 indicates, "The Board shall only provide New Construction funding if the Approved Application was received by the OPSC prior to the date of Occupancy for any classrooms included in the construction contract. After the date of Occupancy of any classroom in the construction contract, a district will be ineligible to seek New Construction funding and the classrooms will be reduced from the baseline eligibility pursuant to Section 1859.51(i) if not previously reduced." However, OPSC cannot predict what a future school facilities program may or may not allow.

**Q. *Once bond authority becomes available, will new or updated documents be required?***

You may be required to submit updated documents if any of the original approvals have expired or are otherwise out of date, incomplete, or not readable. OPSC may also need hard copies of plans and specifications at a later date.

**Q. *If Financial Hardship requests are not being processed, how can a Financial Hardship district submit an Approved Application for funding?***

The [Application for Funding \(Form SAB 50-04\)](#) has been amended. The district will now submit the Form SAB 50-04 and check Box 4 that the district is submitting a "Submittal with school board resolution, pursuant to Section 1859.95.1 (Insufficient Bond Authority)."

**Q. *Will my entire application be stored for processing until more bond authority becomes available?***

Yes. For this reason OPSC strongly encourages the district to submit electronic copies of plans and specifications, and other documents as applicable, stored on either CDs or memory sticks. Please ensure these media are properly labeled for easy identification.

**Q. *There is still some bond authority remaining. Why is my project being placed on the Applications Received Beyond Bond Authority List?***

SFP Regulations require the SAB to approve projects in date order received. The regulations do not provide a mechanism to prioritize applications received on the same day; therefore, unless there is sufficient bond authority to process all applications received on the same day, all applications received that day or later will be placed on the Applications Received Beyond Bond Authority List.

## **Program Future**

**Q. *When will state bond funds become available?*** There are three scenarios in which state bond funds may become available:

1. If projects currently on the Unfunded List (Lack of AB 55 Loans) are later rescinded, the bond authority currently allocated to these projects will become available. Such authority would be used first for those projects on the "true" Unfunded List. If all projects on the "true" Unfunded List are apportioned (or rescinded) and further bond authority returns from previously approved projects, this authority will be available for converting projects from the Applications Received Beyond Bond Authority List to either the Unfunded List (Lack of AB 55 Loans), or to funded apportionments depending on the availability of cash.
2. Through the return of bond funds through closeout reviews.

3. If voters approve a new statewide school facility bond in the future.

**Q. *If a new bond is passed, will there be new rules for eligibility and funding?***

OPSC cannot predict what new rules may be incorporated into a future school facility program.

**Q. *What will happen to my application if my application is ineligible for funding under a future school facility program, or if no future bonds are passed?***

The complete application package may be returned to the district.