

Overcrowding Relief Grant Program – Upcoming 2011 Funding Cycles

By Josh Damoth

On December 15, 2010, the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved two additional funding cycles for the [Overcrowding Relief Grant \(ORG\) Program](#). The deadline to submit applications for the seventh cycle is January 31, 2011. The final filing date for the eighth funding cycle is July 29, 2011.

In the six ORG funding cycles to date, 79 projects have been funded, totaling \$547.2 million. This funding has resulted in the replacement of 1,084 portable classrooms with permanent facilities. Approximately \$452.8 million in ORG bond authority remains for the future funding cycles.

The ORG Program enables districts to reduce the number of portable classrooms on overcrowded school sites and replace them with permanent classrooms. ORG projects may relieve site overcrowding by building permanent classrooms on the same site (such as the use of multistory construction), or on a different site. The portables must be removed from the eligible school site and from K-12 use within six months after the initial occupancy date of the permanent classrooms. The program does not require new construction or modernization eligibility, and instead has its own eligibility criteria.

Eligibility for School Sites

Before districts may apply for ORG funding, they must establish ORG eligibility for each school site by submitting the [Overcrowding Relief Grant Eligibility Determination Form](#) to the California Department of Education (CDE) for each potential site. School sites are eligible if the pupil population density is 175 percent of that recommended by the CDE (based upon 2005/2006 enrollment). The site specific eligibility determines the maximum number of portable classrooms the district may replace.

In order to apply for ORG funds, districts must establish district-wide ORG eligibility by submitting the *Overcrowding Relief Grant District-Wide Eligibility Determination* (Form SAB 50-11) to the Office of Public School Construction.

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E-mail this newsletter.

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The district-wide eligibility determines the maximum number of classrooms that the district may replace under the ORG within the whole district. If a district has not yet established new construction program eligibility, it will be required to do so for purposes of determining the ORG eligibility.

Applying for Funding

After an ORG project has been approved by both the CDE and the Division of the State Architect (DSA), districts may apply for funding by submitting an *Application for Funding* (Form SAB 50-04) and supporting documentation.

For additional information on the ORG, contact Brigitte Baul at (916) 375-5984 or brigitte.baul@dgs.ca.gov.

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