

Priority Funding Process: New Timelines

By Jeremy McCarroll

At the June 27, 2012 meeting, the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved new School Facility Program (SFP) regulations that will change the filing periods for school districts to submit priority funding requests, starting in May 2013. Once approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), the new timelines will increase the opportunities the SAB has to approve apportionments when cash is available and will allow the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) to provide up-to-date information to the Department of Finance (DOF) for potential State bond sale projections.

Please note that the regulations will not impact the Priority Funding filing period that will begin on July 11, 2012.

New Timelines

Once approved by the OAL, the regulations will specify one filing period to begin in mid-May and ends in mid-June. Requests filed during this period will be eligible for an apportionment between July 1 and December 31 of that year. The next filing period begins in mid-November and ends in mid-December. Requests filed during this period will be eligible for an apportionment between January 1 and June 30 of the following year.

Please note that because the new filing periods and priority funding rounds would overlap with the current filing periods and priority funding rounds, there will be a transition period in 2013. The transition will include the current January to February filing period. Requests filed during that period would be eligible to receive an apportionment until June 30 instead of the current July 9. Requests filed during the new May to June filing period would be eligible to receive an apportionment starting July 1.

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Building Blocks

The Office of Public School Construction newsletter

"To enrich the lives of California's school children as stewards of the taxpayers' commitment to education"

Lisa Silverman
Executive Officer
State Allocation Board/OPSC
lisa.silverman@dgs.ca.gov

Bill Savidge
Assistant Executive Officer
State Allocation Board
bill.savidge@dgs.ca.gov



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

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The following table indicates the filing round deadlines for 2013 and 2014, once the regulations are approved by OAL:

Filing Period	Requests will be valid
January 9, 2013—February 7, 2013	February 8, 2013—June 30, 2013
May 8, 2013—June 6, 2013	July 1, 2013—December 31, 2013
November 13, 2013—December 12, 2013	January 1, 2014—June 30, 2014
May 14, 2014—June 12, 2014	July 1, 2014—December 31, 2014

Increased Opportunities for Apportionments

The new timelines will allow the SAB to make apportionments at every meeting that cash is available. The current Priority Funding timelines result in four SAB meetings each year (two per cycle) where no project apportionments can be made. For example, the regulations identify districts' certifications as being valid until the next filing period begins. Therefore, the SAB was not able to approve apportionments at its January 2012 meeting because the previous round's requests were no longer valid and the current round's filing period had not yet ended. Additionally, the OPSC was not able to present apportionments for the SAB to approve at its February 2012 meeting because the end of the filing period (February 9, 2012) and the SAB meeting (February 22, 2012) did not leave enough time to analyze the requests and to prepare apportionment recommendations for the February SAB meeting. The new timelines will alleviate these issues, thus making it possible for the SAB to provide school construction project apportionments at every meeting that cash is available.

Once the regulations are approved by OAL, the OPSC will provide additional notifications of all deadlines to local educational agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact your [OPSC project manager](#).

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