



## Process Improvements – Students & Schools are Priority #1

Welcome to the latest edition of Building Blocks. The Office of Public School Construction’s (OPSC) primary goal is to facilitate the distribution of school facilities funds to school districts for the benefit of our students.

[read more...](#)

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The Office of Public School Construction newsletter

*“To enrich the lives of California’s school children as stewards of the taxpayers’ commitment to education”*

**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
*Governor, State of California*

**BILL LEONARD**  
*State and Consumer Services Agency Secretary*

**RON DIEDRICH**  
*Acting Director, Department of General Services*



Office of Public School Construction  
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

# Process Improvements – Students & Schools are Priority #1



**Lisa Silverman**  
Acting Executive Officer

Welcome to the latest edition of Building Blocks. The Office of Public School Construction’s (OPSC) primary goal is to facilitate the distribution of school facilities funds to school districts for the benefit of our students. In keeping with this goal, the OPSC is participating in a total [program review](#) that includes customers, stakeholders, and state agencies to develop responsible, sustainable and accountable program changes. The mission and objectives of this collaborative group are:

### Mission

To build safe, timely, cost effective, and educationally appropriate school facilities for the students of California.

### Objectives

1. Identify sustainable efficiencies to streamline the public school construction process.
2. Develop a plan with the goal of developing sustainable process changes that can be implemented quickly.
3. Create metrics for tracking, transparency and reporting.
4. Create an enhanced interface between State agencies (the California Department of Education [CDE] / the Division of the State Architect [DSA] / OPSC), the State Allocation Board (Board) and our customers.

The distribution of School Facility Program funding in the coming months will continue to be challenging. The Priorities in Funding Summary in this edition of Building Blocks demonstrates the Board’s commitment to provide flexible funding opportunities. In total, the success of State bond sales over the past 18 months has enabled the Board to convert \$1.48 billion in unfunded approvals to active apportionments. The distribution of these funds can go a long way to boost our economy through job creation. The Board

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Chair, Cynthia Bryant, confirmed the economic benefits, stating that "new construction activity spurs job creation" in a related press release.

The OPSC will work with the DSA and the CDE to create joint outreach opportunities for customers and stakeholders as part of our commitment to improved communications and program processes.

Please send comments and suggestions for future editions of Building Blocks to [opscnews@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:opscnews@dgs.ca.gov).

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# Priorities in Funding Summary

By Travis Williams

In May 2010, the State Allocation Board (Board) approved a Priority Funding round to apportion \$408.3 million. The response to the filing round was outstanding. The OPSC received priority funding requests from 157 school districts across the State.

As established by the Board, districts choosing to participate in the Priority Funding round had a 30-day window from May 27, 2010 to June 28, 2010 to submit a request to convert an Unfunded Approval to an Apportionment. The Priority Funding round was open to applications that had received an Unfunded Approval at or prior to the June 2010 Board meeting. After the June meeting, there were 611 eligible projects on the Unfunded Approvals list. From these 611 projects, the OPSC received 500 priority funding requests, totaling approximately \$1.6 billion.

At the August 4, 2010 meeting, the Board apportioned \$408.1 million to 78 projects under the Priority Funding round. The apportionments were awarded to a wide variety of projects, including new construction, modernization, Joint-Use, and Overcrowding Relief Grant applications. In addition, the Board provided apportionments to three facility hardship applications.

To date, the OPSC has received 48 fund release requests out of the 78 projects apportioned.

Based on the success of the recent Priority Funding round and stakeholder requests, the Board approved regulatory changes at the August 25, 2010 Board meeting that will provide the Board with the ability to enact future Priority Funding rounds as needed.

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# State Allocation Board Actions

The August 25th State Allocation Board (Board) meeting included the following:

- Transfer of Authority & Cash for Future:** The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) reconciled all cash proceeds available in each bond fund and identified \$68.51 million in cash from project rescissions, close-out audits, interest earned and the remaining \$208,607 from the priority funding round that was available for use within the program. The Board approved using \$10 million for advance site and design fund releases for Charter School Facilities Program projects with inactive apportionments, \$5 million for the Joint Use Program, and \$53.51 million for apportionments to be made during a future priority funding round.
- Priorities in School Construction Funding:** As a follow up to the success of the original priority funding round approved at the May 2010 meeting, the Board adopted regulatory changes that allow the creation of additional priority funding rounds on an as needed basis. Once the regulations are effective, the Board, through a board action, may set new 30 day filing periods for future priority funding rounds. The future priority funding rounds would allow school districts on the unfunded list to request an apportionment if they agreed to submit the *Fund Release Request* (Form SAB 50-05) within 90 calendar days of the apportionment.
- Methodology for Ordering Projects on the Unfunded List:** At the August 4th, 2010 Board meeting, the Board approved placing Facility Hardship projects at the top of the unfunded list before continuing with the established "date received" ordering system. At the August 25th meeting, the Board approved a mechanism to be used in the event that the amount of cash available for apportionments is insufficient to cover an entire OPSC received date (effectively resulting in a "tie"). If this circumstance occurs, all projects received on that date will be re-ordered using a random lottery process. The lottery process will use a bingo ball style lottery and will occur

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at the end of a Board meeting. The lottery will be webcast and may be witnessed by the public. If the amount of funds available is not enough to completely apportion the first project in lottery order, that district will have the option of accepting the partial funding or rejecting it. If the district accepts, timelines for the project will begin. If the district rejects partial funding, the project will retain its original place on the unfunded list and the funding will be made available for the next project in lottery order.

- **High Performance Incentive (HPI) Grant Program:** The Board heard an update report regarding the progress between the Division of the State Architect (DSA) and the Collaborative for High Performing Schools (CHPS) for establishing a coordinated review process for projects seeking both HPI grants and CHPS Verification. It is anticipated that an item will come to the next Board meeting to share the final review process created by the two entities.
- **Financial Report:** Staff presented its first quarterly report for year-end 2009/2010, reflecting actual versus budget expenditures including \$951,000 in savings in the administrative budget.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2010.

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# Overcrowding Relief Grant Funding

By Brigitte Baul and Matt Nakao

An item was approved at the August 4, 2010 State Allocation Board meeting to grant unfunded approvals for 20 Overcrowding Relief Grant (ORG) Program projects with a State share totaling nearly \$118 million. This funding will contribute to the replacement of 266 portable classrooms with permanent facilities in six school districts.

In addition, 11 of the 20 approved ORG projects qualified for High Performance Incentive grants, representing an additional cumulative State share amount of \$1.2 million.

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is currently processing applications for the sixth ORG funding cycle, which were due to the OPSC by July 30, 2010. Approximately \$450 million is available for the sixth funding cycle and any subsequent ORG funding cycles.

For questions regarding the ORG Program, please contact Brigitte Baul at (916) 375-5994 or [Brigitte.Baul@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:Brigitte.Baul@dgs.ca.gov).

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# Bond Proceeds Release Continues

By Michael Watanabe

The Office of Public School Construction has processed the following fund releases from 2009 and 2010 bond sales as of August 2, 2010:

**March 2009 Bond Sale:**

Total funds released: \$547.93 million of \$548 million — 99 percent  
Total projects: 234 projects have received funds

**April 2009 Bond Sale:**

Total funds released: \$1.328 billion of \$1.438 billion — 92 percent  
Total projects: 367 projects have received funds

**October 2009 Bond Sale and November 2009 Commercial Paper:**

Total funds released: \$172.9 million of \$528.9 million — 33 percent  
Total projects: 72 projects have received funds

**November 2009 Bond Sale and December 2009 Commercial Paper:**

Total funds released: \$78.0 million of \$111.4 million — 70 percent  
Total projects: 27 projects have received funds

**March 2010 Bond Sale:**

Total funds released: \$531.2 million of \$1.351 billion — 39 percent  
Total projects: 122 project has received funds

See [Status of Funds](#) for more details.

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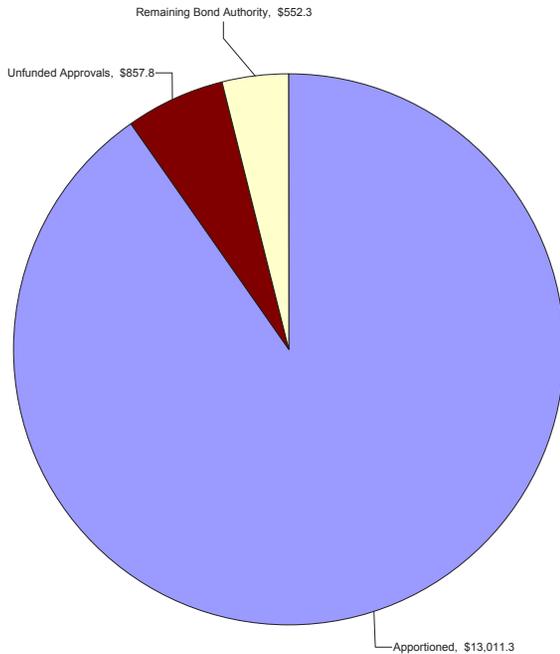
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## Propositions 1D, 55 & 47 New Construction Bond Authority - \$14.421 billion\* (in millions)



New Construction Totals	
Prop 1D	\$ 1,613.4
Seismic Repair	\$ -
Prop 55	\$ 4,904.9
Prop 47	\$ 6,493.0
<b>Apportioned</b>	<b>\$ 13,011.3</b>
Prop 1D	\$ 83.9
Seismic Repair	\$ 4.7
Prop 55	\$ 337.0
Prop 47	\$ 432.2
<b>Unfunded Approvals</b>	<b>\$ 857.8</b>
Prop 1D	\$ 3.2
Seismic Repair	\$ 194.8
Prop 55	\$ 261.4
Prop 47	\$ 92.9
<b>Remaining Bond Authority</b>	<b>\$ 552.3</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,421.4</b>

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# Regulatory Update

## Priorities in School Construction Funding

- Adopted at the August 25, 2010 State Allocation Board (Board) meeting.
- Proposed to provide the Board authority to set additional priority funding rounds as needed.
- Review process underway.

## One-Year Extension of General Site Development Grant

- Adopted at the June 23, 2010 Board meeting.
- Proposed to extend the grant until no later than January 1, 2012.
- Review process continues.

## Financial Hardship Unfunded Reviews

- Adopted at the May 26, 2010 Board meeting with emergency status.
- Proposed to clarify when the OPSC is required to conduct financial hardship unfunded reviews.
- Review process continues.

## High Performance Incentive Grant Changes

- Adopted at the May 26, 2010 Board meeting.
- Proposed to amend the High Performance Incentive grant to promote greater participation in the program.
- Review process continues.

## Implementation of Senate Bill 592

- Adopted at the February 24, 2010 Board meeting.
- Proposed regulatory changes implement Senate Bill 592, which allows local governmental entities and charter schools to hold title to charter school projects receiving funds under the Charter School Facilities Program.
- Public comment period ended August 9, 2010.

## Modernization Funding for Accessibility and Fire Code Requirements

- Adopted at the March 24, 2010 Board meeting.
- Proposed regulatory changes allow modernization "replacement of like-kind in new building areas" to have the same calculation options as all other Excessive Cost Hardship Grants for accessibility and fire code compliance costs.
- Public comment period ends October 4, 2010.

*Note: Regulations become effective upon review and approval of the Office of Administrative Law.*

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# Implementation Committee Discussions

The following items were presented at the July 8, and August 12, 2010 Implementation (IMP) Committee meetings:

## Career Technical Education Expenditure Reporting

Finalize discussions on Career Technical Education Facilities Program worksheet.

Staff proposed that school districts return the State’s share of savings when the district submits the final Expenditure Report. If a school district does not return savings with the final Expenditure Report, the school district should be prepared to remit the State’s share of savings at the conclusion of the closeout audit. A school district will not be required to return interest at either stage; however, the school district must be able to provide supporting documentation during an audit that the interest was expended on high priority capital facility needs of the district.

Since the interest will not be required to be returned to the State, the proposed Funding Worksheet was no longer needed as the Expenditure Report already captures the relevant information.

The IMP Members and the Public agreed with Staff’s proposal.

## Labor Compliance Program

Discuss regulatory changes to the Labor Compliance Program as a result of SBX2 9.

Questions from IMP Members and the Public were addressed and this item will be presented at a future IMP Meeting for further discussion.

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### Construction Cost Index

To continue discussions on the annual adjustment to the School Facility Program grant apportionments based on the change in the statewide Class B Construction Cost Index (CCI).

The Committee addressed challenges in school construction aligning with the CCI. Information will be gathered from the committee involving the components they propose to be established in an index specific for school construction. An item will be presented at a future IMP Meeting for further discussion on the proposed components, and to discuss the interim index the Board should adopt that most accurately reflects California construction costs.

### Did You Know?

#### Career Technical Education Facilities Program Webinar

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) conducted a webinar informational seminar for school districts with second cycle Career Technical Education Facilities Program projects that have not yet submitted the required documentation for fund release approval. The webinar included representatives from the Division of the State Architect and the California Department of Education. In the seminar, the state agencies covered:

- Required documents and the review process
- Deadlines and other applicable issues
- Available resources for assistance

The [Webinar Recording](#) is available on the OPSC website.

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# OPSC Deadlines and Key Dates

## Upcoming Meetings

### State Allocation Board (Board) Meetings - [View Board calendar](#)

- October 6, 2010 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.
- November 3, 2010 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.
- December 8, 2010 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.

[Webcasts of previous Board meetings](#)

### OPSC/DSA Pre-Board Meeting Forums

Preceding Board Meetings in the DGS Main Auditorium at 9:30 a.m.

[Webcasts of previous Pre-Board Meeting Forums](#)

### Implementation Committee Meetings - [View IMP calendar](#)

- September 9, 2010 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- October 7, 2010 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- November 10, 2010 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

[Webcasts of previous IMP meetings](#)

### Career Technical Education Facilities Program Cycle 2 Timelines

- September 10, 2010  
Districts should submit plans and specifications to DSA and CDE by this date.
- December 10, 2010  
Submit detailed construction cost estimate (based on the final DSA and CDE approved plans and specifications for each project).

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