



Ready, Set, Fund

Welcome to the latest edition of Building Blocks. The Office of Public School Construction is pleased to report that of the 78 Priorities in Funding apportionments made at the August 4th State Allocation Board meeting, fund release requests have been submitted for 65 projects.

[read more...](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

Click on headline to view the article.

- Ready, Set, Fund
Public School Construction
Process Review
- October 2010 Priority Funding Round
- What Constitutes a Complete
Funding Application?
- Final Round of Funding
Approved for Career Technical
Education Facilities Program
- Material Inaccuracy Overview
- New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc
- Design and Site Funds Available
for Charter School Projects
- Bond Proceeds Released
- Regulatory Update
- Implementation Committee Discussions
- OPSC Deadlines and Key Dates

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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

Ready, Set, Fund



Lisa Silverman
Acting Executive Officer

Welcome to the latest edition of Building Blocks. The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is pleased to report that of the 78 Priorities in Funding apportionments made at the August 4th State Allocation Board (Board) meeting, fund release requests have been submitted for 65 projects (83.3 percent). This equates to \$336 million of the \$408 million apportioned, and represents 33 of the 40 school districts who received one or more project apportionments. Seven districts with a total of 13 applications have yet to submit their fund release requests for the remaining \$72 million. Fund release requests for these projects must be physically received by the OPSC prior to the close of business on November 2, 2010.

More good news! The Board approved the establishment of a second priority funding round at the October 6th board meeting. Over \$70 million is available for this latest opportunity to get much needed cash to "shovel ready" projects. Details of this priority funding round can be found in this edition of Building Blocks.

As we continue to improve communications and processes, the OPSC and the Division of the State Architect (DSA) will be hosting new outreach opportunities in late October and November. The first event will be hosted by the DSA on October 27, 2010, covering streamlined processing for Project Close-outs. The OPSC will host a similar event in November, so stay tuned for further details in the coming weeks.

Please send comments and suggestions for future editions of Building Blocks to opscnews@dgs.ca.gov.

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Public School Construction Process Review

A Public School Construction Process Review was initiated in July 2010 to provide a unique opportunity for the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC), the Division of the State Architect (DSA), and the California Department of Education (CDE) to work closely with their customers and enable customers to participate in examining and improving public school construction processes. The intent of the Process Review was to serve as a roadmap for collaboration, accountability, and sustainability.

The objectives of the Process Review were as follows:

- Identify sustainable efficiencies to streamline the public school construction process
- Develop a plan to quickly implement sustainable process changes
- Create metrics for tracking, transparency, and reporting
- Create an enhanced interface between State agencies (OPSC, DSA, and CDE), the State Allocation Board (Board), and customers

Collaboration served as the backbone of the Process Review effort. A report representing the collective work of experts, practitioners, customers, and stakeholders will be presented at the November 3, 2010 Board meeting.

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Bond Proceeds Released
- Regulatory Update
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October 2010 Priority Funding Round

By Travis Williams

At the October 6, 2010 State Allocation Board (Board) Meeting, the Board approved an item prioritizing school construction funding. Approved applications on the Unfunded List may be granted an apportionment if the district certifies that it will submit a fund release request within 90 days of the apportionment date.

Between October 7 and November 8, 2010, districts opting to participate in the priority funding round shall submit a request to convert an Unfunded Approval to an apportionment. The requirements of this request (along with a detailed list of the procedures) are available on the Office of Public School Construction's OPSC website. A complete filing round timeline is also available.

Requests must be submitted to:

Office of Public School Construction
Subject: Priority Funding Round
707 3rd Street
West Sacramento, California 95605

All requests to participate in the priority funding round will be presented at the December 8, 2010 Board meeting. Approximately \$71.86 million is available for the October 2010 Priority Funding Round. The Board will also be able to use any additional funds that become available as of November 3, 2010.

If the amounts of the requests exceed the amount of available bond funding, the Board shall apportion projects based on their Unfunded Approval date up to the available cash from each bond source. Any requests to participate in the priority funding round not converted to apportionments will not be returned to the district or kept by the OPSC, and the projects shall retain their original date order position on the Unfunded Approval list.

For any project that receives an apportionment, the District will have 90 days (until March 8, 2011) to submit a *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB

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- Bond Proceeds Released
- Regulatory Update
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50-05). Projects that fail to meet this deadline shall be rescinded with no further Board action. For purposes of the priority funding round, a rescinded application will be placed back on the Unfunded List with an Unfunded Approval date of March 8, 2011.

Districts may request an apportionment for Design Only applications under the priority funding round. Design Only applications receiving an apportionment will receive an automatic fund release without submitting a Form SAB 50-05; however, Design Only applications must still submit a request to convert an Unfunded Approval to an Apportionment which contains all of the statements outlined in procedures attachment approved at the October 6, 2010 Board meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact your [Project Manager](#).

Did You Know?

Joint-Use Program Funding

At its October 6, 2010 meeting, the State Allocation Board (Board) authorized \$6,799,848 for five projects under the Joint-Use Program. School districts receiving these apportionments will have 18 months to submit a Fund Release Authorization (Form SAB 50-05). At the Board's direction, the Office of Public School Construction will provide quarterly updates on the status of the fund release liquidation for these projects.

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- Public School Construction Process Review
- October 2010 Priority Funding Round
- What Constitutes a Complete Funding Application?
- Final Round of Funding Approved for Career Technical Education Facilities Program
- Material Inaccuracy Overview
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Upcoming Webinar:

What Constitutes a Complete Funding Application?

By Nate Gargiulo

The Office of Public School Construction’s (OPSC) Application Review Team will soon be conducting a “What Constitutes a Complete Funding Application?” webinar informational seminar for school districts. The goal of this webinar is to help make the application submittal process more efficient and organized for all parties involved. Topics that will be covered in the seminar include:

- Review of Eligibility Applications
- Review of Funding Applications
- Dwelling Unit Review
- Timeframe for standard initial application review
- Incomplete applications

This webinar will be the first in a series of planned webinars designed to assist school districts and guide them through the application process. Future webinars will include information on application reviews conducted by the OPSC’s Real Estate Team, Plan Verification Team, and Project Managers.

IN THIS ISSUE

Click on headline to view the article.

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.....

Public School Construction
Process Review
.....

October 2010 Priority Funding Round
.....

What Constitutes a Complete
Funding Application?
.....

Final Round of Funding
Approved for Career Technical
Education Facilities Program
.....

Material Inaccuracy Overview
.....

New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc
.....

Design and Site Funds Available
for Charter School Projects
.....

Bond Proceeds Released
.....

Regulatory Update
.....

Implementation Committee Discussions
.....

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Final Round of Funding Approved for Career Technical Education Facilities Program

By Lina Lyda

At its October 6, 2010 meeting, the State Allocation Board approved the final funding round for the Career Technical Education Facilities Program (CTEFP). In this third funding cycle, **unfunded approvals** were authorized for 77 projects, totaling nearly \$93.7 million. In total, the CTEFP has contributed \$500 million to 502 career technical education projects statewide.

School districts that received an apportionment under the second funding cycle of the CTEFP must submit a detailed construction cost estimate that indicates all planning, construction, and site development costs based on the final Division of the State Architect (DSA) and California Department of Education (CDE) approved plans and specifications for each project to the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) by December 10, 2010.

To complete the OPSC project submittal, districts must submit one or all of the following documents (depending on the scope of the project) to the OPSC:

- Plan Approval Letter from the CDE School Facilities Planning Division
- DSA-approved Plans and Specifications and DSA Plan Approval Letter
- Detailed construction cost estimate
- Itemized list of equipment, including costs

For questions regarding the CTEFP, please contact:

Lina Lyda, Supervisor, at lina.lyda@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 375-4027
Julius McIntyre at julius.mcintyre@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 375-4126
Nate Higgins at nathan.higgins@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 375-4142

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- October 2010 Priority Funding Round
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- New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc
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- Regulatory Update
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Material Inaccuracy Overview

By Michael Watanabe

In order to provide transparency and to clarify for the State Allocation Board (Board) and school districts the methodology for recommendations in regards to Material Inaccuracy findings, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) presented the following overview at the October 2010 Board meeting.

Senate Bill 2066, Chapter 590, Statutes of 2000 (O’Connell), which became effective on January 1, 2001, added Education Code (EC) Section 17070.51 that provides that the OPSC shall notify the Board if any certifications of eligibility or funding application related information is found to have been falsely certified by school districts, architects or design professionals. Additionally, this EC Section provides the Board with the authority to impose penalties if Material Inaccuracies have occurred. Material Inaccuracy is further defined in SFP Regulation Section 1859.2 as any falsely certified eligibility or funding application that allowed the district an advantage in the funding process.

Under the law and regulations governing Material Inaccuracy, the term “falsely certified” is used. It is not necessary for the Board to determine that the certification was knowingly false. The term in this context is the simple and common meaning of inaccurate or not true. This standard does not require a finding of any intent or specific knowledge on the part of a district.

Before interest and loss of self-certification privileges can be imposed on a district, the Board must find that a Material Inaccuracy occurred. OPSC Staff presents research, analysis, and recommendations to the Board for Material Inaccuracy consideration. Material Inaccuracy Board items involve a rigorous process of analysis and review of all project information by Staff. The analysis and review includes all district-submitted information and any information on file or discovered by the OPSC. Identified issues are then evaluated according to the standards set forth in statute and regulation. If a violation of statute or regulation occurred, an item is presented to the Board.

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Public School Construction Process Review
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- Final Round of Funding Approved for Career Technical Education Facilities Program
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- New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc
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In a Board item, Staff recommendations to the Board may include, but are not limited to:

- Make a finding that a Material Inaccuracy occurred.
- Require the district to repay the additional funding received for the project beyond the amount to which the district was entitled.
- Require the district to repay the interest resulting from the funding advantage.
- Prohibit the district from self-certification privileges for a period of up to five years.

Since the inception of the School Facility Program in 1998, the Board has found seven districts to be materially inaccurate. These seven districts encompass 39 projects of 6,252 audited and closed (0.62 percent).

Should you have concerns that your project may have potential issues, we encourage you to contact your [Project Manager](#) for assistance.

CELEBRATIONS

September 21, 2010 - Groundbreaking Ceremony
South Region Elementary School #5, Huntington Park - LAUSD

October 6, 2010 - Ribbon-Cutting
Valley Region Elementary School #9, Van Nuys - LAUSD

October 14, 2010 - Ribbon-Cutting
Jose A. Castellanos Elementary School, Los Angeles - LAUSD

October 18, 2010 - Ribbon-Cutting
Esteban E. Torres High School, Los Angeles - LAUSD

October 21, 2010 - Ribbon-Cutting
South Region Elementary School #3, Los Angeles - LAUSD

October 27, 2010 - Grand Opening
Dr. Owen Lloyd Knox Elementary School, Los Angeles - LAUSD

October 28, 2010 - Ribbon-Cutting
South Region Elementary School #7, Los Angeles - LAUSD

October 30, 2010 - "Flip the Switch" celebration and Environmental Expo
Saddleback High School - Santa Ana Unified School District

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Ready, Set, Fund
.....

Public School Construction
Process Review
.....

October 2010 Priority Funding Round
.....

What Constitutes a Complete
Funding Application?
.....

Final Round of Funding
Approved for Career Technical
Education Facilities Program
.....

Material Inaccuracy Overview
.....

New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc
.....

Design and Site Funds Available
for Charter School Projects
.....

Bond Proceeds Released
.....

Regulatory Update
.....

Implementation Committee Discussions
.....

OPSC Deadlines and Key Dates
.....

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New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc

The Office of Public School Construction has transitioned to a new website as part of the Department of General Services' (DGS) overall website redesign. The new website provides for additional consistency in the DGS divisions' web pages, and was designed for easy customer navigation. Check it out at www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc.

One highlight of the new design is our "Programs & Services" section. It has been re-organized with our customers' perspective in mind. Each program page features a brief description of the program, then "accordion" tabs with Eligibility, Funding, and Fiscal Reporting information specific to that program.

The screenshot shows the website's header with the DGS logo and navigation tabs. The main content area is titled "Office of Public School Construction" and displays the "Charter School Facilities Program" page. The page includes a description of the CSFP, a link to the "School Facility Program Handbook", and a "Frequently Asked Questions" section. Below this are three accordion tabs for "Eligibility", "Funding", and "Fiscal Reporting". A "Quick Links" sidebar on the right lists various tools like "OPSC Electronic Meeting Notification Sign up" and "Project Tracking Number Generator".

Updating and adding information to our website is a constant work in progress. Your feedback is valuable to us. Should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email opscnews@dgs.ca.gov.

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.....
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.....
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.....
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.....
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.....
- Material Inaccuracy Overview
.....
- New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc
.....
- Design and Site Funds Available for Charter School Projects
.....
- Bond Proceeds Released
.....
- Regulatory Update
.....
- Implementation Committee Discussions
.....
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.....

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Design and Site Funds Available for Charter School Projects

By Jason Casillas

At its August 25, 2010 meeting, the State Allocation Board (Board) authorized the allocation of \$10 million in available cash proceeds to the Charter School Facilities Program (CSFP) for the purpose of providing advance fund releases for design and site acquisition for Proposition 55 and Proposition 1D Preliminary Apportionment recipients. At its October 6, 2010 meeting, the Board approved the Office of Public School Construction's (OPSC) recommendation for disbursement of the funds. Due to the bond sources of the available cash and because cash cannot be transferred between bond sources, the \$10 million will be allocated as follows:

- Proposition 55 = \$6.41 million
- Proposition 1D = \$3.59 million

Advance fund release recipients will be determined via a 30 day filing period from October 21, 2010, through November 19, 2010. During this period, charter schools must submit a written request for consideration for an advance fund release. Requests must be physically received by the OPSC by the close of business on November 19, 2010 at the following address:

Attn: Jason Casillas
Office of Public School Construction
707 3rd Street, 8th Floor
West Sacramento, CA 95605

At the end of the 30 day filing period, a lottery will be held to determine the order in which fund releases will be offered from each respective bond source. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Jason Casillas at jason.casillas@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 375-4229
Travis Williams at travis.williams@dgs.ca.gov or (916) 915-4559

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Bond Proceeds Released

By Michael Watanabe

The Office of Public School Construction has processed the following fund releases from 2009 and 2010 bond sales as of September 16, 2010:

March 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$528.73 million of \$528.8 million — 99 percent
 Total projects: 234 projects have received funds

April 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.334 billion of \$1.438 billion — 93 percent
 Total projects: 372 projects have received funds

October 2009 Bond Sale and November 2009 Commercial Paper:

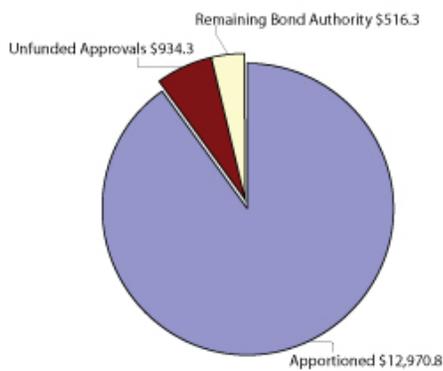
Total funds released: \$208.2 million of \$509.5 million — 41 percent
 Total projects: 93 projects have received funds

November 2009 Bond Sale and December 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$83.3 million of \$111.4 million — 75 percent
 Total projects: 31 projects have received funds

March 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$946.1 million of \$1.351 billion — 70 percent
 Total projects: 200 project has received funds



New Construction Totals	
Prop 1D	\$ 1,607.3
Seismic Repair	\$ -
Prop 55	\$ 4,873.9
Prop 47	\$ 6,489.6
Apportioned	\$ 12,970.8
Prop 1D	\$ 86.2
Seismic Repair	\$ 4.7
Prop 55	\$ 347.5
Prop 47	\$ 495.9
Unfunded Approvals	\$ 934.3
Prop 1D	\$ 7.0
Seismic Repair	\$ 194.8
Prop 55	\$ 281.9
Prop 47	\$ 32.6
Remaining Bond Authority	\$ 516.3
Grand Total	\$ 14,421.4

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

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.....
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.....
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.....
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Funding Application?
.....
- Final Round of Funding
Approved for Career Technical
Education Facilities Program
.....
- Material Inaccuracy Overview
.....
- New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc
.....
- Design and Site Funds Available
for Charter School Projects
.....
- Bond Proceeds Released
.....
- Regulatory Update
.....
- Implementation Committee Discussions
.....
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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.
- Emergency effective date October 4, 2010.

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.
- Public Comment period ends November 29, 2010.

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.
- Effective date October 5, 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 ended 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 September 9 and October 14, 2010 Implementation (IMP) Committee meetings:

High Performance Incentive Grants

Provide answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's) regarding the High Performance Incentive Grant portion of the revised Project Information Worksheet. The FAQ's will be posted on the Office of Public School Construction's Web site.

Construction Cost Index

Continue discussions on the annual adjustment to the School Facility Program grant amounts based on the change in the Class B Construction Cost Index. This item will be presented at a future State Allocation Board meeting.

Labor Compliance Program

Continue discussions on implementing Senate Bill X2 9 (2009), which contains new labor compliance requirements for school districts. This item will be presented at a future IMP Meeting for further discussion.

Assembly Bill (AB) 127

Discuss the School Facility Program grant adjustment authorized by AB 127 (2006). This item will be presented at a future IMP Meeting for further discussion.

IN THIS ISSUE

Click on headline to view the article.

- Ready, Set, Fund
Public School Construction Process Review
- October 2010 Priority Funding Round
- What Constitutes a Complete Funding Application?
- Final Round of Funding Approved for Career Technical Education Facilities Program
- Material Inaccuracy Overview
- New Website: www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc
- Design and Site Funds Available for Charter School Projects
- Bond Proceeds Released
- Regulatory Update
- Implementation Committee Discussions
- OPSC Deadlines and Key Dates

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"

E-mail this newsletter.

Lisa Silverman

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Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

OPSC Deadlines and Key Dates

Upcoming Meetings

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

- 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](#)

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

[Webcasts of previous IMP meetings](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

Charter School Facilities Program

Advance Design and Site Acquisition Funding Requests

- October 21 through November 19, 2010

School Facilities Program

Last day to submit applications using 2009/2010 CBEDS

- November 1, 2010

October 2010 Priority Funding Round

Certifications due:

- November 8, 2010

Career Technical Education Facilities Program

Cycle 2 Apportionments - Documents due:

- December 10, 2010

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