



## The Results Are In...

Welcome to the latest edition of Building Blocks. I am very pleased to report on the final results of the December Apportionments made from the October 2010 Priority Funding Round. Of the 442 projects that received an apportionment, totaling \$1,437 billion, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) received more than \$1.436 billion in fund release requests, representing 441 projects.

[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"*

**EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.**  
*Governor, State of California*

**ANNA CABALLERO**  
*Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency*

**SCOTT HARVEY**  
*Acting Director, Department of General Services*



Office of Public School Construction  
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

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**Lisa Silverman**  
Acting Executive Officer

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We look forward to distributing funds for the remaining Priority Funding apportionments. As a reminder, the deadline to submit *Fund Release Authorizations* (Forms SAB 50-05) for priority funding apportionments authorized at the January 2011 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting is April 26, 2011. The deadline to submit Forms SAB 50-05 for priority funding apportionments authorized at the February 2011 SAB meeting is May 23, 2011. Please note that all Forms SAB 50-05 must be physically received by the OPSC no later than these deadlines.

In addition to information on priority funding round apportionments, this issue of Building Blocks includes an update on the Seismic Mitigation Program. This article includes information about program requirements, the seismic evaluations recently completed, and a new SAB subcommittee that will consider modifications to the program criteria in order to increase participation in the program.

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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# Seismic Mitigation Program Update

By Alan Shoemaker

Proposition 1D provided up to \$199.5 million for seismic repair, reconstruction, or replacement of the most vulnerable school facilities. In August 2009, the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP) regulation changes to increase participation in the program by making additional building types eligible and by reducing the minimum short period spectral acceleration criteria, the measurement of the velocity of ground movement that could occur during an earthquake.

To qualify for seismic mitigation funding, a school district must have a building classified as a Most Vulnerable Category 2 Building, as verified the Division of the State Architect (DSA), and the building must be in a location with a short period spectral acceleration rating that equals or exceeds 1.68g. However, at the March 23, 2011 SAB meeting, an SAB subcommittee on the Seismic Mitigation Program was created to consider modifications to the program criteria in order to increase participation in the program. The subcommittee will hold its first meeting on April 12, 2011.

In November 2009, the California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC) provided to the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) a \$200,000 grant to contract for structural engineering services to conduct evaluations

## Did You Know?

The California Department of Education (CDE), the Division of the State Architect (DSA), and the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) hosted the first in a series of quarterly Joint Workshops on March 24, 2011. The [presentation and other materials](#) are available on the OPSC's website. If you viewed the workshop live or via webcast, please complete our anonymous [feedback survey](#) to help us plan and improve future events.

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at California public K-12 school sites preliminarily identified by the DSA as meeting eligibility requirements. The resulting evaluations ascertained the seismic vulnerability of certain K-12 school buildings that may be at risk during a seismic event. The contracts were also designed to develop a seismic evaluation report template which provided a more systematic and cost effective approach for determining the seismic safety status of school facilities in the State.

The DSA preliminarily identified 48 school buildings within 16 districts as possibly meeting SMP requirements. Nine school districts, containing 38 of these buildings, chose to participate in the free evaluation program. All nine participating school districts have received site visits from the contractors and all seismic evaluation reports have been received by the OPSC and the DSA to complete the review process. Of the 38 preliminarily qualified school buildings, 20 have met all qualification standards.

On March 10, 2011, the CSSC approved an OPSC request to retain \$77,000 in unencumbered funds from the \$200,000 seismic evaluation grant. Retention of the unencumbered funds will allow the OPSC to outreach to pre-identified districts that chose not to participate in the seismic evaluation program. In addition, retention of unencumbered funds will also be useful for performing additional evaluations in the event of possible revisions to SMP eligibility requirements.

For additional information about SMP Facility Hardship funding, please contact:

Darlene Newman at (916) 375-4269 or [darlene.newman@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:darlene.newman@dgs.ca.gov)  
Alan Shoemaker at (916) 376-5359 or [alan.shoemaker@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:alan.shoemaker@dgs.ca.gov)

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# Upcoming Office of Public School Construction Webinars

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) will soon be hosting a series of How to Apply for School Facilities Funding webinars. The webinars will be a training tool that will cover the OPSC review process from A to Z.

Benefits of webinars include convenience, interaction via email, and availability as a permanent reference tool on the OPSC website.

**Send Questions In Advance!** We encourage any participants in our webinars to send us questions in advance at [opscnews@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:opscnews@dgs.ca.gov) to ensure that staff will be best prepared to answer questions and provide superior customer service.

## How to Apply for School Facilities Funding

### Part I: Elements of a Complete Application

Date: April 11th, 2011

Time: 9:00am-10:30am

- Overview of the application intake process
- Comprehensive list of required documents for various application types:
  - New Construction eligibility and funding
  - Modernization eligibility and funding
  - District representative update

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/892834009>

### Part II: Site Development Funding

Date: April 18th, 2011

Time: 9:00am-11:00am

Technical and practical tips for design professionals and cost estimators to maximize site development funding for new construction projects.

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/888841784>

### Part III: New Construction Eligibility and Funding

Date: April 25th, 2011

Time: 9:00am-11:00am

- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Tips for maximizing program eligibility
- Tips to maximize eligibility for supplemental grant funding
- Overview of the OPSC review process

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/469137424>

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**Part IV: Modernization Eligibility and Funding**

Date: May 2nd, 2011  
Time: 9:00am-11:00am

- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Tips for maximizing program eligibility
- Tips to maximize eligibility for supplemental grant funding
- Overview of the OPSC review process

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at:  
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/915249009>

**Part V: Site Acquisition Funding**

Date: May 9th, 2011  
Time: 9:00am-11:00am

- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Documents required to maximize site acquisition funding

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at:  
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/432159521>

**Part VI: Financial Hardship**

Date: May 16th, 2011  
Time: 9:00am-11:00am

- Overview of the Financial Hardship review process
- Documents needed to submit a complete Financial Hardship application
- Examples of specific documents to expedite review

Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at:  
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/858034537>

**System Requirements for Webinars:**

- PC-based attendees  
Required: Windows® 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server
- Macintosh®-based attendees  
Required: Mac OS® X 10.4.11 (Tiger®) or newer

**Did You Know?**

Regulations authorizing the General Site Development Grant expired on January 1, 2011. Amendments were approved by the State Allocation Board (SAB) on June 23, 2010 to extend the expiration date to January 1, 2012, but these regulations have not yet taken effect. Since there is currently no effective regulatory authority to provide the General Site Development Grant, applications requesting the grant must be processed without the grant. However, based on direction provided by the SAB on March 24, 2011, approvals for applications eligible for the grant will be left open to be amended to include the additional grant once the regulations are in effect.

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# Funds Released for Shovel-Ready School Construction Projects

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) has recently processed more than \$1.4 billion for 441 school construction projects statewide. These projects received apportionments at the December 15, 2010 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting under the second round of Priorities in School Construction Funding.

Under accelerated funding rules that prioritize shovel-ready projects, more than \$1.95 billion has been apportioned to 564 school construction projects since August 2010. "Accelerated funding rules ensure that available funds are quickly distributed to benefit school districts and local communities," said SAB Chair Pedro Reyes in a recent press release.

Prior to the approval of the accelerated Priorities in School Construction Funding rules, apportionments were granted based on the receipt and approval dates of complete funding applications, or on a first in, first out basis. Each approved project had up to 18 months to request release of the State funds.

## Did You Know?

**The State Allocation Board (SAB) Subcommittee on Priorities in School Construction – Cash Management** met in February and March to discuss the best options for making apportionments and addressing program needs related to cash and bond authority as we move forward in the current fiscal climate. Topics for discussion included ways to improve the current priority funding mechanism, a permanent change to the 18 month time limit on fund releases, how to address the fiscal crisis regulations set to expire at the end of June, and whether or not the SAB should look at options to transfer bond authority. To obtain additional stakeholder input, the Committee will meet again on April 12th prior to sending its recommendations to the full membership of the SAB for consideration. The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) encourages all school districts to attend the meeting or to view it via webcast. Districts who are unable to attend may also submit comments to the OPSC in advance of the meeting at [opsnews@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:opsnews@dgs.ca.gov).

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The SAB approved accelerated funding rules in May 2010 to prioritize shovel-ready projects. In order to qualify for priority funding, participating school districts certified that they would submit a *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) within 90 days of receiving an apportionment. In order to request fund release, districts must have local matching funds, usually 50 percent of the total project cost, in hand, and at least half of their construction contracts in place. School districts in financial hardship were also able to compete for the priority-ordered funding to purchase sites or begin design work.

Out of \$1,437,978,343 apportioned for 442 projects at the December 15, 2010 SAB meeting, fund release requests were received for more than \$1.436 billion, representing 441 projects and a 99.93% success rate.

**Priorities in School Construction Funding Apportionments**

SAB Apportionment Date	Total Value of Apportionments	Number of Projects Apportioned	Deadline to Submit Fund Release Authorization	Success Rate (% of Funds Requested by Deadline)
8/04/10	\$408.1 million	78	11/04/10	100%
12/15/10	\$1.4 billion	442	3/15/11	99.93%
1/26/11	\$103.8 million	26	4/26/11	TBD
2/23/11	\$40.6 million	13	5/24/11	TBD

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# Bond Proceeds Released

By Michael Watanabe

## Bond Proceeds Released

The Office of Public School Construction has processed the following fund releases from 2009 and 2010 bond sales as of February 28, 2011:

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: \$1.371 billion of \$1.438 billion — 95 percent

Total projects: 392 projects have received funds

October 2009 Bond Sale and November 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$391.6 million of \$509.5 million — 77 percent

Total projects: 189 projects have received funds

November 2009 Bond Sale and December 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$83.9 million of \$111.4 million — 75 percent

Total projects: 33 projects have received funds

March 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.131 billion of \$1.351 billion — 84 percent

Total projects: 246 projects have received funds

November 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$912.3 million of \$1.483 billion — 62 percent

Total projects: 337 projects have received funds

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

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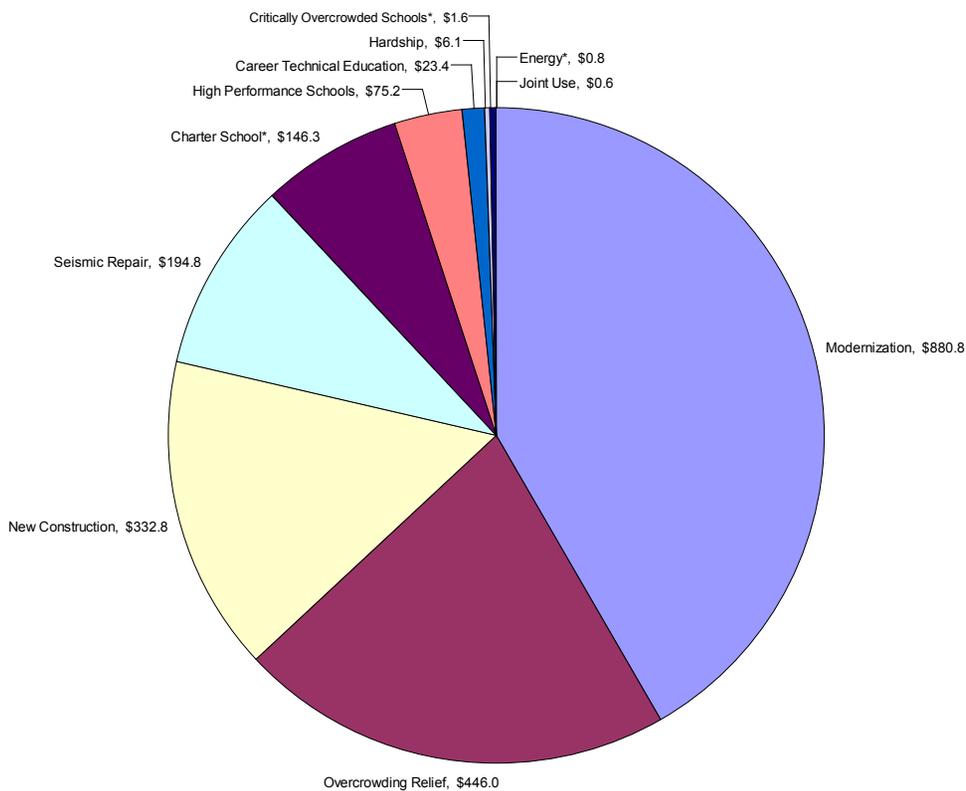


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# Remaining Bond Authority - \$2.108 billion

(by program, in millions)  
as of March 23, 2011



\* These funds could be transferred.

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# Regulatory Update

## Labor Compliance Program Regulations

- Adopted on an emergency basis at the February 23, 2011 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting.
- Proposed regulations provide that school districts that awarded construction contracts between August 1, 2010 and November 4, 2010 and that were funded from Propositions 47 or 55, must have a labor compliance program in place by May 1, 2011.
- Review process continues.

## Timeline Options for Charter School Facilities Program Advance Fund Release Requests

- Adopted on an emergency basis at the February 23, 2011 SAB meeting.
- Proposed regulations require CSFP advance fund releases for site acquisition to request the release of funds within 180 days of approval, while requiring advance fund releases for design to request the release of funds within 90 days of approval. These proposed regulations also apply to Critically Overcrowded School projects, specifically the advance release of environmental hardship site acquisition funds.
- Review process continues.

## Fiscal Crisis Regulations

- Adopted on an emergency basis at the December 15, 2010 SAB meeting.
- Proposed to extend, until July 1, 2011, the Inactive Preliminary Charter School Apportionment regulations, the Inactive Preliminary Apportionment regulations for Critically Overcrowded Schools projects, and the Financial Hardship Re-Review regulations.
- Review process continues.

## Geographic Percent Factor for Santa Catalina Island

- Adopted at the December 15, 2010 SAB meeting.
- Proposed regulatory amendment allows for 50 percent for excessive cost due to geographic location for Santa Catalina Island only.
- Public comment period ends April 4, 2011.

## One-Year Extension of General Site Development Grant

- Adopted at the June 23, 2010 SAB meeting.
- Proposed to extend the grant until no later than January 1, 2012.
- Public comment period ends April 4, 2011.

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

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# OPSC Deadlines and Key Dates

## Upcoming Meetings

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

- April 27, 2011 (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m.
- May 25, 2011 (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m.

### OPSC/DSA/CDE Pre-SAB Meeting Forums

- April 27, 2011 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.
- May 25, 2011 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.

### SAB Subcommittee on Cash Management

- April 12, 2011 (Tuesday) 3:00 p.m.

### SAB Subcommittee on Seismic Mitigation

- April 12, 2011 (Tuesday) 2:00 p.m.

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

- April 14, 2011 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- May 12, 2011 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## Outreach

### “There’s a Child Behind Everything We Do!”

Small School Districts’ Association: Radisson Hotel in Sacramento

- April 14, 2011 - How to Build a School in California (CDE, DSA, and OPSC)

### How to Apply for School Facilities Funding - Webinar Series

Part I: Elements of a Complete Application

- April 11, 2011 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Part II: Site Development Funding

- April 18, 2011 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Part III: New Construction Eligibility and Funding

- April 25, 2011 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Part IV: Modernization Eligibility and Funding

- May 2, 2011 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Part V: Site Acquisition Funding

- May 9, 2011 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Part VI: Financial Hardship

- May 16, 2011 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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## Upcoming Deadlines

### Second Priority Funding Round

#### January 26, 2011 Apportionments:

Deadline to submit *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) for projects receiving apportionments under the continuation of the second Priority Funding Round at the January 26, 2011 SAB meeting:

- April 26, 2011

#### February 23, 2011 Apportionments:

Deadline to submit *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) for projects receiving apportionments under the continuation of the second Priority Funding Round at the February 23, 2011 SAB meeting:

- May 24, 2011

### Overcrowding Relief Grant Funding Cycle:

Deadline to submit funding applications for the eighth funding cycle:

- July 29, 2011

### Energy Efficiency Grants:

Submit *Application for Funding* (Form SAB 50-04):

- Now through April 1, 2011

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