

OPSC Updates

We're ending 2011 with a huge Priority Funding apportionment. State funding in the amount of \$923.8 million was apportioned at the December State Allocation Board meeting! This will fund 377 projects!

[read more...](#)

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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"

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor, State of California

ANNA M. CABALLERO
Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency

FRED KLASS
Director, Department of General Services



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

OPSC Updates



Lisa Silverman
Acting Executive Officer

We're ending 2011 with a huge Priority Funding apportionment. State funding in the amount of \$923.8 million was apportioned at the December State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting! This will fund 377 projects in 154 school districts statewide! The apportionments were made possible by the State Treasurer's October 19, 2011 bond sale, which yielded nearly \$1 billion for the School Facility Program (SFP). The funds will provide much-needed cash for SFP projects, creating thousands of jobs and stimulating the economy.

Districts that received an apportionment must submit a complete *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) within 90 days for each apportionment. The Form SAB 50-05 must contain an original signature and must be physically received by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) prior to the close of business on March 13, 2012. If districts do not submit the Fund Release Authorization by March 13, 2012, their project will be placed at the bottom of the unfunded list, as required by the SFP regulations.

In addition, districts that received an apportionment on December 14, 2011 should be aware that their project may be impacted by a new law, Chapter 378, Statutes of 2011 (AB 436—Solorio). If the district has a construction contract awarded after January 1, 2012, it will be required to submit a copy of the project notification that was submitted to the Department of Industrial Relations with their Form SAB 50-05 submittal. For more information on the new law, please see the article "New Prevailing Wage Monitoring Requirements" in this edition of Building Blocks.

Districts with projects on the unfunded approvals list that did not receive an apportionment on December 14, 2011 should be aware of the upcoming Priority Funding certification filing period. The next 30-day certification filing period begins on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. Certifications with original signatures must be physically received by the OPSC before the close of business on February 9, 2012. Districts that submit valid certifications for

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their unfunded approved projects during this filing period will be eligible for Priority Funding apportionments through July 10, 2012. For additional information, please refer to the [Procedures for School Facility Program Funding](#).

The second meeting of the SAB subcommittee on New Construction funding has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2012 from 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. The purpose of the subcommittee is to discuss the remaining new construction bond authority and possible future bond funding. The time, location, and agenda will be posted to the [OPSC website](#) when they are confirmed.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of Building Blocks. Included are articles on the recent adoption of regulations for prevailing wage monitoring, the eighth cycle of the Overcrowding Relief Grant program, the new Project Information Worksheet database, and much more!

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

Did you know?

Update on Solar Energy/Energy Efficiency options Hearing

An informational hearing on solar energy and energy-efficiency opportunities for school districts was held on Monday, December 5, 2011. The hearing identified a great need for additional low-cost financing and technical assistance for school solar energy and energy efficiency projects. In these tough budget times, most districts and the State do not have the luxury to direct resources to this work, even though it could result in substantial long-term energy savings.

The webcast and presentation materials are available on the [SAB Archives](#) page of the OPSC website, and links to useful solar energy and energy efficiency resources will be posted soon. School districts are also invited to submit their solar energy/energy efficiency success stories for Staff to share with others.

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The Importance of School Facilities in California

By Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, State Allocation Board Member



The State Allocation Board (SAB) has the great responsibility of apportioning State school construction bond funds in California. Our role is to ensure the funds are distributed in accordance with the ballot initiatives authorizing the bonds and corresponding regulations and procedures adopted by the Legislature and the SAB. We also act as the arbiter when school districts disagree with staff interpretation of those rules. I believe my role is to ensure fair and consistent application of the rules.

I became interested in school construction in the mid-1980s when my children were in elementary school. The school did not have a multi-purpose room, so the children had to eat lunch at their desks and the Parent Teacher Association had no place to have assemblies. As I became aware of the physical condition and overcrowding of other schools in our district, it was clear we needed to pass a bond and do something. After I was elected to the school board in 1990, fixing the physical condition of our schools became a top priority.

I remember when the State of California passed \$800 million bonds in the early 1990's while Dade County, Florida, passed bonds for more than a billion dollars. We had little hope of fixing all our schools. Then we got smart, formed a broad coalition of leaders from education, labor, and business, and changed the rules, including passing Proposition 39, which lowered the voter threshold for passing local school bonds to 55 percent.

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While not perfect, the current State School Facility Program has been a huge success. It has allowed the State to partner with school districts to build new schools and add classrooms to existing schools, and to rehabilitate older schools. It has had a positive impact on safety and the learning environment of our schools as well as the quality of life in our communities. It has contributed to the economic engine of our State by leveraging state dollars with local and private dollars, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

We're near the end of our funding capacity, and given the current economic climate, it is uncertain whether we can pass a new bond in 2012. Our challenge is to determine how we can stretch the remaining dollars, fund the most critical projects, and build capacity for the next bond.

We can't stop now. Our children are too important. We need to rebuild that coalition, pass the next bond, and keep the program alive. On November 8, 2011, California voters passed more than \$700 million in local school bonds. Now, the state needs to do its part.

As we move forward, there are important questions that must be considered, including:

- How do we incentivize the right projects, i.e. building permanent buildings versus portable classrooms?
- How do we incorporate life-cycle costs into our design and construction decisions, thus saving taxpayers money over time?
- How are we going to fund maintenance of our schools, protecting the multi-billion dollar investment the taxpayers have made over the past decade?

I look forward to exploring answers to these questions with you.

For more information on Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, please visit her [website](#).

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New Prevailing Wage Monitoring Requirements

By Bryan O'Dell

At its December 15, 2011 meeting, the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved new School Facility Program (SFP) regulations regarding the prevailing wage monitoring and enforcement requirements that will affect all State-bond funded projects with construction contracts awarded after January 1, 2012. The new SFP regulations will become effective once approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

Chapter 7, Statutes of 2010 (Senate Bill X2 9—Padilla), and Chapter 378, Statutes of 2011 (Assembly Bill 436—Solorio), made changes to the Labor Code to require the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to begin providing prevailing wage monitoring and enforcement for State General Obligation Bond funded projects on or after the effective date of DIR regulations to implement the statute. The OAL approved the DIR regulations on December 7, 2011, and they will become effective on January 1, 2012. The provisions will apply to all projects funded by Propositions 1A, 47, 55 or 1D, or any future State bond that does not include a specific exception, as long as the project's construction contract is awarded after January 1, 2012.

For the services provided, the DIR will charge school districts an amount not to exceed one quarter of one percent of the State bond funding for the project. Districts are exempt from the DIR monitoring if they have a previously DIR-approved internal labor compliance program, or if a collective bargaining agreement which meets requirements specified in Labor Code Section 1771.3(b)(3) is in place for the project.

Once approved, the new SFP regulations will provide an additional grant for projects with a construction contract awarded after January 1, 2012, regardless of the bond source. The grant will be equal to one quarter of one percent of the State's share. The State's share is typically either 50 or 60 percent of the total SAB approved project cost, depending on the SFP program.

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Pursuant to the DIR Regulations, districts are required to notify the DIR of State bond funded public works projects when the construction contract is awarded. Districts will receive confirmation from the DIR that the notification was received. Districts will be required to submit a DIR confirmation of receipt along with the *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) submitted to the Office of Public School Construction. However, if the Form SAB 50-05 is submitted prior to July 1, 2012, the district may submit a copy of the notice sent to the DIR regarding the public works project in lieu of the DIR confirmation of receipt.

Districts that received an apportionment on December 14, 2011:

If your project has a construction contract awarded after January 1, 2012, you are required to submit a copy of the project notification that was submitted to the Department of Industrial Relations with your Form SAB 50-05 submittal.

Since the new Labor Code requirements are a part of a district's eligibility for State bond funds, districts that fail to comply with these provisions will be required to return the SFP funds with interest.

To review the full text of the SAB approved regulations, please refer to the [December 14, 2011 SAB Agenda](#).

For additional information, please contact:

Hannah Konnoff at (916) 375-4037 or hannah.konnoff@dgs.ca.gov

Bryan O'Dell at (916) 375-4271 or bryan.odell@dgs.ca.gov

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Overcrowding Relief Grant Program Status

By Brigitte Baul

The eighth funding cycle for the Overcrowding Relief Grant (ORG) program was approved at the December 14, 2011 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting. Out of the 20 applications received for the eighth cycle, 17 projects in the amount of \$82,143,642 received unfunded approvals from the SAB. These 17 projects will replace 202 portables with permanent classrooms.

Approximately \$328 million remains in ORG Program bond authority that will be available for the ninth funding cycle. Applications for the ninth funding cycle must be received by the Office of Public School Construction by January 31, 2012.

The ORG program enables districts to reduce the number of portable classrooms on eligible overcrowded school sites by replacing them with permanent classrooms. Since its inception, the ORG program has replaced 1,381 portables with permanent classrooms at 103 overcrowded school sites.

For more information, please contact:
Brigitte Baul at (916) 375-5984 or brigitte.baul@dgs.ca.gov

Looking for funds?

Certification Filing Round Begins January 11, 2012

The next 30-day priority funding certification filing period is just around the corner; local educational agencies with projects on the unfunded approvals list may submit certifications beginning January 11, 2012. As bond sales take place or cash becomes available, districts that have submitted a valid certification will be eligible for priority funding apportionments. For this filing period, certifications must be physically received by the Office of Public School Construction on or before the close of the filing period on February 9, 2012. Please see the [Procedures for School Facility Program Funding](#) for additional important information.

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Important Information for Career Technical Education Facilities Program Projects

By Julius McIntyre

Career Technical Education Facilities Program (CTEFP) projects on the unfunded list may submit a priority funding certification. However, the criteria for reservation of funds projects still apply.

School Facility Program Regulation Section 1859.193 allows the State Allocation Board to reserve funding for CTEFP projects that require but have not yet obtained Division of the State Architect (DSA) and California Department of Education (CDE) approval for a period of up to 12 months. However, priority funding participation requires districts to submit a *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) within 90 days of apportionment. Therefore, CTEFP applicants on the unfunded list who wish to submit a priority funding request must submit their reservation of funds documents (approved DSA plans and specifications, DSA approval letter, CDE approval letter, and a final detailed cost estimate) prior to or concurrently with the priority funding certification.

Submitting the reservation of funds documents prior to or concurrently with the priority funding certification ensures that an unfunded CTEFP project with a priority funding request will not be reverted back to the bottom of the unfunded list due to the reservation of funds requirements not being fulfilled.

For more information, please contact:

Julius McIntyre at (916) 375-4126 or julius.mcintyre@dgs.ca.gov
Melissa Thomas at (916) 375-5961 or melissa.thomas@dgs.ca.gov

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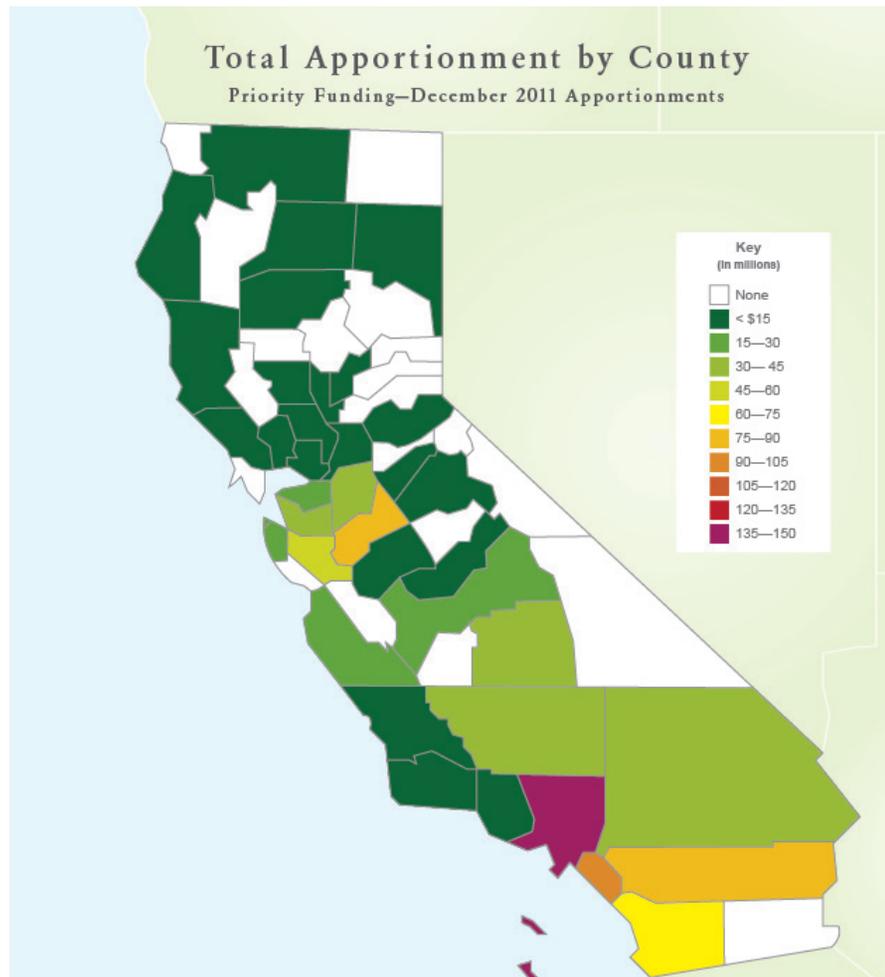


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Where's the Money?

By Laurel Brode

At the December 14, 2011 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting, the SAB granted \$923.8 million in Priority Funding apportionments to **377 projects**. The following map illustrates the distribution of these apportionments by county. Apportionment amounts include Financial Hardship apportionments when applicable.



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New Interactive Project Information Worksheet Database

By Matthew Nakao

In July 2011, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) presented recommendations for the creation of an interactive Project Information Worksheet (PIW) tool to the State Allocation Board (SAB). The interactive PIW database allows users to search and view data that was collected through the PIW. Information can be found on the [OPSC website](#) and/or the [Governor's Bond Accountability](#) website.

For New Construction projects, school districts have been required to submit the PIW along with the *Fund Release Authorization* (Form G56 50-05), and the first and final *Expenditure Report* (Form G56 50-06) since July 2008, when the PIW was approved. In addition, school districts with Modernization projects that received High Performance Incentive Grant funding have been required to submit the PIW since January 25, 2011.

The interactive database allows users to create customizable PIW data reports for these projects. In addition to the customizable reports, there are a number of preexisting reports that users may find helpful. These reports can provide information by county, district, SAB apportionment date range, bid date range, or for a specific project. The reports reference funding, expenditures, bond source(s), facilities built, square footage, and much more. These new features provide districts with another source for tracking project information and allow districts and the public to see the results of State school facilities funding.

For more information, please contact:
Bryan O'Dell at (916) 375-4271 or bryan.odell@dgs.ca.gov

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Implementation Committee Update

By Hannah Konnoff

The Implementation (IMP) Committee met on November 17, 2011 and December 2, 2011, to discuss new prevailing wage monitoring and enforcement requirements that will affect all State bond funded projects.

The Committee discussed proposed School Facility Program (SFP) regulations created in consideration of school construction projects affected by changes to the Labor Code. As of January 1, 2012, all State General Obligation Bond funded school construction projects for which construction contracts are awarded on or after that date will be subject to prevailing wage compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

The Office of Public School Construction received input from the public and stakeholders regarding the proposed regulation changes. The regulatory amendments were presented and approved at the December State Allocation Board Meeting, and will become effective upon approval from the Office of Administrative Law. Please see the "New Prevailing Wage Monitoring Requirements" article in this edition of Building Blocks for more information.

The [2012 IMP meeting schedule](#) is now available online. Agenda information will be available on the [IMP webpage](#) prior to each meeting.

For additional information, please contact:

Hannah Konnoff at (916) 375-4037 or hannah.konnoff@dgs.ca.gov

Bryan O'Dell at (916) 375-4271 or bryan.odell@dgs.ca.gov

Did you know?

State School Facilities Funding Seeking Local Bond Match

Congratulations to school districts that recently passed a school construction bond measure. If you are looking to begin a school construction project and are seeking State funding, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is here to help. We are available to provide assistance for all of your school facilities funding needs. Please contact your [OPSC Project Manager](#) to start the process.

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School of the Month

Downtown High School

San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco County

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

Modernization

The school serves 300 students in grades 9–12, offering an alternative curriculum focused on project-based learning and affording a second chance to at-risk students.

Located in San Francisco’s Potrero Hill neighborhood, the school was originally built in 1934 and expanded in 1951, serving as an elementary school through the 1980’s. This art deco style building has undergone many transformations through its lifetime, including administrative use by the California Department of Transportation.



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School of the Month: Downtown High School, continued...



The school's location, a steeply sloping site, and the building's original split-level design made access difficult. Alterations to the exterior and interior surfaces would need to bridge the old with the new.

Ultimately, this modernization project provided a fully-accessible campus of nineteen classrooms while bringing new life to the school and community.

ARCHITECT:
K2A Architecture + Interiors



Would you like to see your project featured as the "School of the Month?" Please email opscnews@dgs.ca.gov.

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Bond Proceeds Released

By Janet Mizushima

The Office of Public School Construction has processed the following fund releases from 2009 and 2010 bond sales as of December 9, 2011:

March 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$528.8 million of \$528.8 million — 100 percent
Total projects: 235 projects have received funds

April 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.427 billion of \$1.438 billion — 99 percent
Total projects: 413 projects have received funds

October 2009 Bond Sale and November 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$478.6 million of \$509.6 million — 94 percent
Total projects: 231 projects have received funds

November 2009 Bond Sale and December 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$108.4 million of \$111.4 million — 97 percent
Total projects: 36 projects have received funds

March 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.275 billion of \$1.351 billion — 94 percent
Total projects: 268 projects have received funds

November 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.454 billion of \$1.483 billion — 98 percent
Total projects: 530 projects have received funds

October 2011 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$0 of \$963.7 million — 0 percent
Total projects: 0 projects have received funds

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

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Lisa Silverman

*Acting Executive Officer
State Allocation Board/OPSC
lisa.silverman@dgs.ca.gov*

Bill Savidge

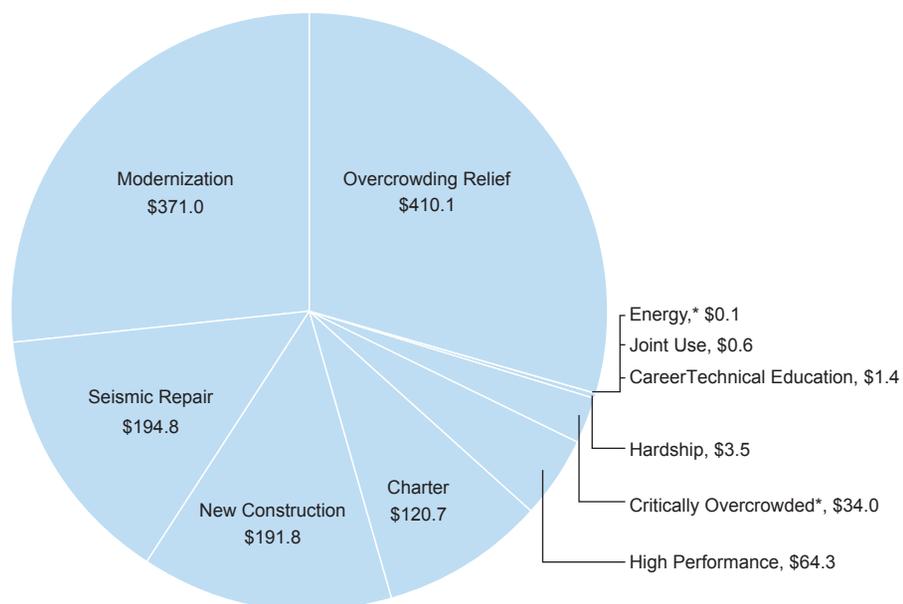
*Assistant Executive Officer
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Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Remaining Bond Authority

\$1.392 billion as of December 14, 2011
(by program, in millions)



* These funds could be transferred.

Did you know?

Seismic Mitigation Program Status Report

At the December 14, 2011 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting, the Division of the State Architect (DSA) provided an overview of its implementation of the Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP). The [DSA report](#) is available and highlights the main program requirements, DSA's role in the approval process, and recent changes in DSA procedures. These changes incorporate the broader eligibility criteria adopted by the SAB in June 2011 and clarify requirements for determining building eligibility and construction project approval by the DSA. Such approval must be received before an application for SMP funding can be submitted to the Office of Public School Construction. For additional information, refer to [DSA Procedure 08-03](#).

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Regulatory Update

Two-Year Extension of the General Site Development Grant

- Adopted at the July 12, 2011 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting.
- Proposed to extend the grant until no later than January 1, 2014.
- Public comment period ended on November 7, 2011.
- Current Status: Review process continues.

Charter School Rehabilitation Projects Applying for High Performance Incentive Grant Funding

- Adopted at the October 26, 2011 SAB meeting.
- Proposed regulations provide clarification of Section 6 on the *Application for Funding* (Form SAB 50-04) for Charter School Facilities Program Rehabilitation projects applying for the High Performance Incentive additional grant.
- Current Status: Review process continues.

Prevailing Wage Monitoring Regulations

- Adopted on an emergency basis at the December 14, 2011 SAB meeting.
- Proposed to implement prevailing wage monitoring compliance requirements specified in Chapter 378, Statutes of 2011 (Assembly Bill 436—Solorio).
- Current Status: Review process underway.

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 and Events

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

- January 25, 2012 (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m.
- February 22, 2012 (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m.

Pre-SAB Meeting Forums

- January 25, 2012 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.
- February 22, 2012 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.

New Construction SAB Subcommittee Meeting

- Tentitive: January 11, 2012 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Implementation Committee – [View IMP calendar](#)

- January 13, 2012 (Friday) 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
- February 10, 2012 (Friday) 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Upcoming Deadlines

Priority Funding

Expiration of certifications submitted during the first certification filing period

- January 10, 2012

Start of the second certification filing period

- January 11, 2012

Overcrowding Relief Grant Program (ORG)

9th ORG Round – Submit applications by January 31, 2012

10th ORG Round – Submit applications by July 31, 2012

December 2011 Priority Funding Apportionments

Deadline to submit *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) for projects that received Priority Funding apportionments at the December 14, 2011 SAB meeting:

- March 13, 2012

For additional information, please see the [OPSC Events Calendar](#) online.

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