

For Immediate Release

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New Incentives Promote ‘Green’ School Construction

Approval of Regulations and Creation of a Streamlined Process

(Sacramento)— The Department of General Services announced today that new regulations recently took effect that will encourage California K-12 public school districts to incorporate ‘green,’ high performance features in their facilities. The department also announced that its Division of the State Architect (DSA) has partnered with the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) to create a streamlined review process for schools seeking the state’s ‘green’ schools funding, and certification from CHPS.

The regulations provide an additional incentive for school districts to apply for High Performance Incentive (HPI) grants as supplemental State grants available to school districts for new construction and modernization projects. The regulations also incorporate requirements of the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code with the existing HPI grant program.

High performance construction incorporates designs and materials that promote energy and water efficiency, maximize the use of natural lighting, improve indoor air quality, utilize recycled materials and materials that emit a minimum of toxic substances, and employ acoustics that are conducive to teaching and learning.

“The new regulations and coordinated review process with CHPS will make it that much easier for school districts to build the ‘green’ classrooms that promote greater learning for our kids,” said Scott Harvey, Acting DGS Director. “Through the cooperation of DGS and CHPS and the reduction in duplicative review functions, school districts will benefit from additional incentives to incorporate high performance features in their facilities.”

Proposition 1D, approved by the voters in 2006, provided \$100 million for HPI grants to promote the use of high performance attributes in new construction and modernization

projects for K-12 schools. Currently, \$80.5 million is still available for qualifying projects.

Under the agreement signed between DGS and CHPS, schools seeking both state funding under the HPI grant program and CHPS Verified recognition will now benefit from coordinated and simplified review processes. DSA's plan review of projects requesting HPI funding can be provided to CHPS for projects also seeking "CHPS Verified" status. School districts utilizing this new process will receive a fee reduction from the CHPS Verified program.

"For the last ten years, CHPS helped school districts across California learn how to implement healthy, high performance, green school buildings. This new partnership with DSA is a leap forward for schools in California, connecting state high performance school funding with technical support and recognition for the project's accomplishments from CHPS," said Bill Orr, Executive Director of CHPS. "With this change, combined with the increased incentives especially for modernizations, we are confident that up to 200 schools will decide to pursue high performance with the remaining state bonds."

The Department of General Services acts as the business manager for the State of California. DGS helps state government better serve the public by providing services to state agencies including procurement and acquisition solutions, real estate management, leasing and design services, environmentally friendly transportation, and architectural oversight and funding for the construction of safe schools.

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