

New Law Facilitates Charter School Facility Projects

By Barbara Kampmeiner and Rebecca Kirk

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 592](#), which will allow charter schools to retain ownership of new school facilities. This will remove a significant roadblock in charter schools accessing \$900 million in [Charter School Facilities Program](#) (CSFP) state funds that are available for charter school construction projects through Propositions 47, 55, and 1D.

Prior to SB 592, the law stipulated that no funds could be released for a CSFP project unless the local school district held title to the property. If the school district did not hold title, the project could undergo extensive delays or be prevented from being built entirely. SB 592 amends this law to allow a charter school facility's title to either be held by a government entity or the charter school itself, allowing construction projects to move forward while providing flexibility to both school districts and charter schools.

To date, of the 63 charter school projects that have been granted state funds, only five projects have been completed, and only 13 of the 63 charter schools have been able to produce the required signed memorandum of understanding with respective local school districts stipulating that they have agreed to hold the property's title. Often these memorandums can take months, or even years, to negotiate. SB 592 provides additional options in the event the local school district does not want to hold title, reducing substantial delays and facilitating the completion of CSFP projects.



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Building Blocks

The Office of Public School Construction newsletter

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E-mail this newsletter.

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