



High Performance Features Offer Return on Investment

By Rob Cook, Executive Officer

The Office of Public School Construction strives to provide school districts with valuable information regarding opportunities and funding for school facilities. This issue of Building Blocks focuses on the many benefits of High Performance school facilities . . .

[Read more](#)

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"To enrich the lives of California's school children as stewards of the taxpayers' commitment to education"

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Governor, State of California

FRED AGUIAR
Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency

WILL BUSH
Director, Department of General Services



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

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The Office of Public School Construction strives to provide school districts with valuable information regarding opportunities and funding for school facilities. This issue of Building Blocks focuses on the many benefits of High Performance school facilities.

In addition to their reduced impact on the environment, High Performance features realize long-term cost savings, and many can be implemented at minimal cost. Furthermore, the School Facilities Program offers High Performance incentive grants for qualifying projects.

Overall, High Performance "just makes cents." I hope that you will find that the resources in this issue provide you with ideas for incorporating [High Performance](#) components in your facilities projects.

This issue will also provide you with updated information regarding the release of \$548 million in Proposition 1D bond proceeds that became available to fund school construction projects. Additionally, the School Facility Program also received \$1.439 billion from the April Build America Bond Sale as follows:

- \$422.3 M for Proposition 47
- \$428.5 M for Proposition 55
- \$587.7 M for Proposition 1D

The total bond proceeds generated from the March and April sales is \$1.98 Billion. The School Facility Program has received more funding than any other infrastructure program from these two bond sales.

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

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Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Doing More with Less

By Assemblywoman Jean Fuller, State Allocation Board member



Serving on the State Allocation Board (SAB), a bipartisan group working together for the benefit of school children, has been one of my favorite assignments as a legislator.

My involvement with the SAB has really come full circle. While I now sit at the dais during SAB meetings, I first became acquainted with the SAB when I was a new district superintendent seeking funding for my district's facilities. After serving as a superintendent for 17 years, I feel blessed for the opportunity to give back and assist school districts through the process.

Recent times have presented drastic changes in state and national fiscal health, which have directly impacted school facility funding. We cannot predict the duration or consequences of the current fiscal crisis, but the OPSC and the SAB have been able to provide districts with new resources during this challenging time, such as Building Blocks and [webcasted SAB meetings](#). I encourage you to utilize these tools, and to continue to provide input to the SAB through OPSC staff and the [Implementation Committee](#). In addition, on behalf of the SAB, I would like to invite you to apply for the [open position](#) of Assistant Executive Officer. These opportunities for collaboration can provide us with the best possible outcome, and the best product for California's schools.

Detailed information on my background is available [online](#).

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Office of Public School Construction
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High Performance Schools: They Just Make Cents

By Tim Hegedus and Brian LaPask

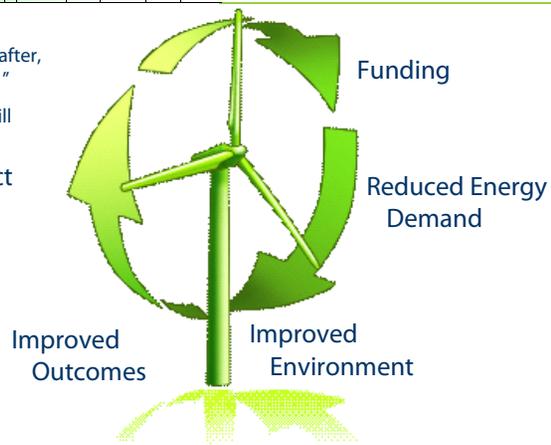
Proposition 1D provided \$100 million in incentive grants to promote the use of high performance attributes in new construction and modernization projects for K-12 schools. Currently there is approximately \$88.7 million remaining for High Performance Incentive (HPI) funding.

Why should you consider high performance attributes when designing your school projects? High performance schools just make sense. Not only do they help to reduce the toll on the environment and energy resources, but they are a smart financial choice as well. Many high performance attributes can be included in school projects at little or no additional cost, and they can also provide the district with a great return on investment through utility cost savings. When you add an HPI grant into the equation, the choice to design high performance school projects becomes clear.

Business Case for Sustainability

"We shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us"
- Winston Churchill

Better Product
+ More Revenue



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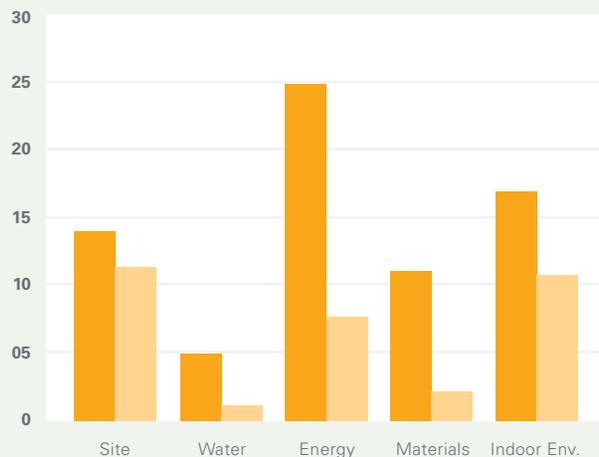


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STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

When designing your high performance school project, be sure to review the guidelines and criteria for HPI funding in sections 1859.71.6 and 1859.77.4 of the Office of Public School Construction's [School Facility Program Regulations](#). The criteria are based on the 2006 best practices manual of the [Collaborative for High Performance Schools](#), but projects designed with other high performance rating systems in mind, such as the U.S. Green Building Council's [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#), will likely also qualify for HPI funding. Scores will be verified by the Division of the State Architect (DSA), so it's a good idea to check out the DSA's [HPI scorecards and checklists for applicants](#), and its [Grid Neutral Schools Program](#) as well.

If you have any questions about HPI funding, contact Brian LaPask at (916) 327-0298 or blapask@dgs.ca.gov; or Tim Hegedus at (916) 322-0338 or thehedus@dgs.ca.gov.

Read more about green schools in the [news](#).



High Performance Incentive Grant

Maximum Available Points & Average Actual Points
35 Applications Using 2002 CHPS Criteria

■ Maximum Points Possible
■ Average Points Attained

Average Total Points is 32.8 out of 72 Possible
(23% Increase to Base Grant)

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'Build America Bonds' and School Bonds Invest in our Kids

By Laurel Goddard



Recently the U.S. Treasury Department announced two new innovative bond programs to help states pursue capital projects.

The "Build America Bonds" program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 aims to provide much-needed funding for state and local governments at lower borrowing costs. This will enable them to pursue necessary capital projects, including schools.

Traditionally, tax-exempt bonds provide a critical source of capital for state and local governments, but the recession has sharply reduced their ability to finance new projects. The "Build America Bonds" program is designed to provide a federal subsidy for a larger portion of the borrowing costs of state and local governments than traditional tax-exempt bonds in order to stimulate the economy and encourage 2009-10 investments in capital projects.

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In addition, the Treasury Department also announced guidance on allocations of national bond volume cap authorizations for two innovative tax credit bond programs for schools, known as "Qualified School Construction Bonds" and "Qualified Zone Academy Bonds." The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided new or expanded authorizations, respectively, for these two programs. These tax credit bond programs allow state and local governments to finance public school construction projects and other eligible costs for public schools with interest-free borrowings. These tax credit bond programs provide this federal subsidy by giving those who buy these bonds a federal tax credit that essentially allows state and local governments to issue these bonds without interest cost.

The guidance that the Treasury Department issued allocates the national bond volume authority for these school bond programs among the states and certain large local school districts pursuant to statutory formulas. These volume cap allocations enable state and local governments to use these low-cost borrowing programs to finance school projects, promoting economic recovery and job creation.

For "Qualified School Construction Bonds," the guidance divides the \$11 billion national bond volume authorization for 2009 among the states and 100 of the largest local school districts based on federal school funding.

For "Qualified Zone Academy Bonds," the guidance divides the \$1.4 billion bond national bond volume authorizations for each of 2008 and 2009 among the states based on poverty levels.

More information is available [online](#).

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Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

Methodology for Grant Adjustment Recommendation

Assembly Bill 127 authorized the State Allocation Board to provide a yearly adjustment to the per-unhoused-pupil K-12 grant amounts. At the April and May Implementation Committee meetings, OPSC staff presented proposed options for the methodology to determine a recommended adjustment amount, and received input from committee and audience members. The discussion will continue at the June meeting. Once the methodology has been vetted, the analysis will be conducted with findings and recommendations submitted to the State Allocation Board.

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Districts Encouraged to Apply for Seismic Funds

By Josh Damoth



Seismic mitigation funds are still available for qualifying districts through the Seismic Mitigation Program. Proposition 1D – approved by voters in November 2006 – authorized up to \$199.5 million for seismic mitigation of school facilities that are the most vulnerable buildings and pose a risk of injury during an earthquake.

In order to qualify for a financial award, which is funded through a 50 percent state and 50 percent district matching share, the building must meet the School Facility Program regulation

criteria developed by the Division of the State Architect (DSA), which focuses on the most vulnerable facilities, deemed "Category 2." The ground shaking intensity (GSI) factor provides a measure of the relative probability of a given critical level of earthquake ground motion from one location to another. Currently, facilities must be in a location with a GSI factor of 1.70g or higher. The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is working with the DSA and the Department of Finance (DOF) to develop a recommendation for the SAB that may lower the GSI factor requirement, allowing more districts to seek funding for eligible facilities.

OPSC, in conjunction with the DSA, has conducted intensive outreach to districts in an attempt to identify facilities that may be eligible for Seismic Mitigation funding, and determined there are 25 potentially eligible facilities but only three have applied to date. One of these three school districts has submitted an application for conceptual approval, which is currently under review.

Contact OPSC for further information — Josh Damoth at 916-323-7938 or josh.damoth@dgs.ca.gov

Photo: Courtesy of Robert Eplett, OES Photo Library

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Office of Public School Construction
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Bond Proceeds Release Continues

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is releasing \$548 million in bond sale proceeds for school facility projects that received an apportionment from the State Allocation Board (SAB), but received no funds due to the freeze placed on disbursements from the Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB).

The OPSC processed the following fund releases from the March bond sale:

- Total funds released:** \$521 million of \$548 million — 93.7% of bond funds
- Total projects:** 225 out of 238 — 94% of projects scheduled to receive funds
- Total districts:** 81 out of 85 School Districts — 95% Districts



Project No.	School District	Claim Schedule Number	Claim Date Released	Amount Released
504758P-00-013	Academy Elementary	2008149	5/29/2009	\$19,952.18.00
504758P-00-013	Academy Elementary	2008150	5/29/2009	\$294.79.00
5075713-00-014	Altamira Unified	2008146	5/29/2009	\$3,530,927.00
5075713-00-021	Altamira Unified	2008142	5/22/2009	\$5,410,730.00
5075713-00-020	Altamira Unified	2008146	5/29/2009	\$9,878,042.00
5775713-00-014	Altamira Unified	2008142	5/22/2009	\$1,008,014.00
5775713-00-015	Altamira Unified	2008142	5/22/2009	\$863,142.00
5073991-00-003	Amador County Unified	2008126	5/4/2009	\$58,889.00
5073991-00-004	Amador County Unified	2008142	5/22/2009	\$251,716.00
5346223-00-001	Arden City	2008146	5/22/2009	\$22,716,634.00
5043313-00-020	Arvin Union Elementary	2008126	5/4/2009	\$12,320.00
5043313-00-022	Arvin Union Elementary	2008147	5/29/2009	\$216,971.00
5046821-00-001	Arvin Union Elementary	2008127	5/6/2009	\$234,777.00
5748865-00-028	Baldwin Park Unified	2008144	5/22/2009	\$398,295.00
5247558-00-021	Bell Home Union High	2008142	5/22/2009	\$982,546.00
5147679-00-018	Chico Valley Unified	2008146	5/29/2009	\$1,561,829.00
5042111-00-001	Covina Unified	2008142	5/11/2009	\$603,388.00
5047685-00-028	Colton Joint Unified	2008143	5/22/2009	\$1,008,848.92
5047685-00-028	Colton Joint Unified	2008144	5/22/2009	\$1,067,816.08
5074139-00-001	Colton-Pleasanton Yosemite Prep	2008120	5/4/2009	\$61,738.00

Did you know?

The Office of Public School Construction's (OPSC) School Facility Program publishes a monthly funds release report by project number/school district on the [OPSC Web site](#).

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Important Program Note Regarding Recently Enacted Legislation

The provisions of new legislation, Chapter 7, Statutes of 2009 (Senate Bill X2 9 – Padilla), impact the School Facility Program. Under current law, projects funded by Propositions 47 and 55 are subject to a Labor Compliance Program (LCP) requirement and receive a grant augmentation for it. Under the new law, the Department of Industrial Relations will administer LCPs and will assess a fee to cover the costs. Public works projects funded from any state bonds will be subject to this fee for contracts signed after the effective date of the department’s regulations and adoption of the fee.

Details are available on the [OPSC Web site](#).

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Funding on the way for 'Extreme Hardship' Projects

The State Allocation Board approved and apportioned funds for 132 Deferred Maintenance Program Extreme Hardship projects at the April 2009 meeting. The Office of Public School Construction is working with the State Controller's Office to process the fund releases for these projects.

The OPSC Web site provides [additional details for this program](#).



OPSC Apportionments & Funds Released

The Office of Public School Construction released the following apportionments in May 2009 under the School Facility Program:

New Construction	\$ 156,088,008
Modernization	\$ 68,585,338
Joint-Use	\$ 7,755,423
Critically Overcrowded Schools	\$ 0
Charter School Facilities	\$ 0
Overcrowding Relief Grant	\$ 10,907,557
High Performance	\$ 308,551
Career Technical Education	\$ 6,880,074
Total	\$ 250,524,951

Total funds released from January 4, 2008, to present:

New Construction	\$ 1,785,895,860
Modernization	\$ 583,820,260
Joint-Use	\$ 55,283,202
Critically Overcrowded Schools	\$ 523,621,211
Charter School Facilities	\$ 35,405,708
Overcrowding Relief Grant	\$ 24,394,458
High Performance	\$ 308,551
Career Technical Education	\$ 33,729,225
Needs Assessment	\$ 0
Emergency Repair Program	\$ 202,078,808
Total	\$ 3,244,536,283

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Board Actions:

Career Technical Education Facilities and Joint-Use School Facility Program Financial Crisis Emergency Regulations (Effective: April 30, 2009)

- Presented at Feb. 25, 2009, State Allocation Board meeting
- For Career Technical Education Facilities projects, current regulations provide a 12-month period to applicants to submit the necessary approvals from the California Department of Education (CDE) and Division of the State Architect (DSA) for projects apportioned as a reservation of funds. The recently approved regulations provide for an extension not to exceed 12 months to this time limit.
- For Joint-Use School Facility Program projects, recently approved regulations would allow the Board, once a determination has been made that the project qualifies and an inactive apportionment has been granted, to suspend the 12-month requirement to submit DSA and CDE's approved plans and specifications for a period not to exceed 12 months.

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Web Watch:

The webcast of the May 27 board meeting can be viewed on the [Office of Public School Construction Web site](#). Meeting webcasts will be available for 30 days following each meeting then archived online for future viewing.

Read how the Division of the State Architect is [getting California's schools off the grid](#). You can also view [general grid neutral program information](#) and obtain the [grid neutral guidebook](#) online.

Web Resources:

OPSC Website: www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov

California Energy Commission Website: www.energy.ca.gov

DSA Website: www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/OtherProg/hps.htm

DSA Website link to Energy Regulations: www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/OtherProg/energyregs.htm

Collaborative for High Performance Schools: www.chps.net

LEED for schools: <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>



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Upcoming Meetings

State Allocation Board [View calendar](#)

- June 24, 2009
- July 22, 2009
- August 26, 2009

Implementation Committee [View calendar](#)

- June 5, 2009
- July 10, 2009
- August 7, 2009

Program Applications

- Overcrowding Relief Grant – Fourth Round July 31, 2009
- Career Technical Education Facilities Program –Third Cycle
- CDE Grant Application due to CDE by Sept.18, 2009
- OPSC Application for Funding (Form SAB 50-10) due. March 31, 2010
- Critically Overcrowded Schools Program
- Projects apportioned in October 2004 that received an extension
- Final Conversion Application due by October 30, 2009

Reports

- Certification of Unused Sites (Form SAB 423) June 30, 2009
- Modification of Unused Site Status (Form SAB 424) June 30, 2009
- Community School Facilities Report (Form 406C) Sept. 1, 2009
- Expelled Pupils Facilities Report (Form SAB 406E). Sept. 1, 2009

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Community Corner

Van Nuys High School New gymnasium ribbon cutting ceremony

Monday, June 1, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys

Olive Vista Middle School Construction kick-off celebration

Wednesday, June 3, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Olive Vista Middle School, Sylmar

Verdugo Hills High School New softball field ribbon cutting

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Verdugo Hills High School, Tujunga

State officials spread word about agencies' missions

Earlier this month, State Architect David Thorman joined Executive Officer Rob Cook of the Office of Public School Construction to address the Coalition for Adequate School Housing Conference in San Diego. They informed attendees about the fiscal and programmatic challenges facing school districts today, and provided updates on what their respective offices are doing to help. They also met with professional organizations for architects and construction managers and participated in breakout sessions.

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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"

E-mail this newsletter.

Rob Cook
Executive Officer, SAB/OPSC
rob.cook@dgs.ca.gov



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD