

Webinar Questions and Answers

Part III: New Construction Eligibility and Funding

Presented April 25, 2011

Questions	Answers
Is there a way to look up birth rate data by zip code? This information would be helpful for districts that encompass several zip codes.	Districts can look up birth rate data by zip code on the California Department of Public Health's website at: http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/pages/birthprofilesbyZIPCode.aspx
Is there any criteria for determining whether to use five or ten year projections for the Form SAB 50-01?	Districts can use whichever method is the most beneficial for their projection. The number of years of prior enrollment data that the district will have to report depends upon whether a five or ten year projection is selected. Another consideration is that modified weighting and alternative weighting are available for only the five year projection. A ten year projection allows a district to submit more historical data, but it does not have the benefit of additional augmentations that are available for the five year projection. The ten year projection is still a cohort calculation, however, this ten year calculation is a stand-alone option; districts utilizing the ten year projection may not use the dwelling unit augmentation, modified weighting mechanisms, or the birth rate augmentation.
How does the district know which proposition funds are being granted for their project?	In the State Allocation Board agenda item, the proposition will be identified at the bottom of the page (Proposition 47 has a 047 code; Proposition 55 has a 055 code; Proposition 1D has a 057 code.) For projects receiving unfunded approvals, the 0 in the three digit fund code prefix will be replaced by a 9. For example, an unfunded approval from Proposition 1D authority would be 957 instead of 057.
Where is the link to download the webinar presentation?	All webinar information can be accessed on the OPSC's webinar page: http://www.dgs.ca.gov/opsc/Resources/OPSCWebinars.aspx

Can OPSC Staff explain the alternative weighting method in more detail?

Modified weighting and alternative weighting are available for only the five year projection. A ten year projection allows a district to submit more historical data, but it does not have the benefit of augmentations that are available for the five year projection. The ten year projection is still a cohort calculation, however, this ten year calculation is a stand-alone option; districts utilizing the ten year projection may not use the dwelling unit augmentation, modified weighting mechanisms, or the birth rate augmentation.

Districts selecting the five year projection have the option of applying the following weighting methods:

1-2-3 (Standard Weighting)- This is the standard weighting formula for the projection method as it has been shown to accurately predict future enrollment for the majority of districts. The projection method represents districts in which the current enrollment trends are most relevant to the fifth-year projections. In determining the annual change, the change from the current to previous year is multiplied by three, the change between previous and second previous year is multiplied by two, and the change from second previous year to third previous year is given a weight of one. The changes are then averaged to determine the average change.

3-2-1- This mechanism is designed for districts where the more recent trends are contrary to the long term trends of the district. By weighting towards the older years, the weighting system anticipates that past trends will be more prevalent in the future than the current ones.

1-1-1- This mechanism is designed for districts that have varied enrollment from year to year, and do not grow or decline in a more predictable manner. This method applies equal weights to each year's change in enrollment.

An alternate weighting mechanism- A district may choose an alternate weighting mechanism using any three positive whole numbers (Example: 3-4-8, 3-2-8, etc.). In order to use modified weighting, the district must supply eighteen years of historical enrollment data. The OPSC uses the historical enrollment data to calculate historical projections using the standard 1-2-3 weighting, the modified 3-2-1 and 1-1-1 weighting, and the district's proposed alternate weighting mechanisms. These historical projections are then compared to the actual enrollment for the fifth projection year to analyze how accurate each method proved to be. School Facility Program Regulation Section 1859.42.1 requires that the most accurate of the four weighting mechanisms be used to make the fifth-year enrollment projection.

