



Pre-Engineered School Library

Autumn Thaw



Rob Cook
Executive Officer

The State of California's October bond sale was a success for the School Facility Program – we will receive approximately \$503.7 million to fund school construction projects.

[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"

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor, State of California

FRED AGUIAR
Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency

RON DIEDRICH
Acting Director, Department of General Services



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

The distribution of this funding includes approximately \$427 million for projects from Proposition 1D, \$44.7 million for projects from Proposition 55, and \$32 million for projects from Proposition 47. There will be sufficient funds to provide money to nearly all projects apportioned prior to December 17, 2008.

Overall, the School Facility Program has been fortunate in receiving more funding from the 2009 bond sales than any other infrastructure program. As of November 2, 2009, The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) had released a total of \$1.9 billion (532 projects) from the funds made available by the March and April 2009 bond sales. OPSC staff continues to work closely with the State Treasurer's Office and the Department of Finance to enable the release of funds to school districts as quickly as possible. Further information confirming allocation of the October bond proceeds will be made available as soon as possible.

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



The School Facility Program

Since the inception of the School Facility Program in 1998, voters have authorized \$35.4 billion in bond funds, and the State Allocation Board (SAB) has apportioned 9,485 projects for a total of...



Since the freeze placed on disbursements from the Pooled Money Investment Board, the SAB has accepted and processed unfunded approvals for 405 projects for a total of...



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Breaking Barriers

By Scott Harvey, State Allocation Board member



One of my objectives as a State Allocation Board (SAB) member is to find ways to maximize the use of available funds and remove obstacles for school districts seeking those funds. As a result, I strongly encourage school districts to help the SAB understand how to eliminate barriers in the distribution of available funds, particularly for undersubscribed programs such as [Seismic Mitigation](#) and [High Performance](#). With advice from the Division of the State Architect and the Office of Public School

Construction, as well as feedback from school districts, the SAB has begun to address impediments to the Seismic Mitigation Program by approving regulatory amendments to expand program criteria. The SAB must now turn its attention to why school districts are not seeking High Performance school bond dollars. The expeditious distribution of funds under the Seismic Mitigation and High Performance programs is important in ensuring public safety and promoting environmental friendliness in school facilities.

With all of the bureaucratic layers involved in constructing school facilities, the process can seem overwhelming, particularly in difficult budget years. However, it is crucial to maintain sight of our common goal, what is truly important—providing a safe and healthy school environment for every child.

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

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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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The Bonds of October Hit a Homerun

By Joel Ryan

During the week of October 5, 2009, the California State Treasurer’s Office conducted another successful general obligation bond sale, selling \$4.1 billion in bonds.

You may have several questions about October’s bond sale. These questions may include how soon will bond funds be available and how much will be allotted for School Facility Program projects. The School Facility Program will receive \$503.7 million for school construction projects.

The Office of Public School Construction’s accounting staff is working diligently to prepare the certification lists for the Treasurer’s Office. These funds should be available in mid-November to provide fund releases for nearly all projects apportioned at or before the December 10, 2008 SAB meeting.

For bond sale information, please visit the [Treasurer’s bond website](#).



Reactivation of Inactive Apportionments

The October bond sale will provide funding for nearly all apportionments made by the State Allocation Board (SAB) prior to December 17, 2008. As a result, at its November 4, 2009 meeting, the SAB approved the Reactivation of Inactive Apportionments item that reactivates the 18-month clock for specific project numbers identified in the item. Should you have any questions, please contact:

Michael Watanabe at (916) 324-2557 or michael.watanabe@dgs.ca.gov

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New Construction Grant Adjustments

By Josh Damoth

Assembly Bill (AB) 127, Chapter 35, Statutes of 2006 (Perata/Nunez) authorizes the State Allocation Board (SAB) to adjust the School Facility Program (SFP) new construction pupil grant amounts, as necessary, based on an analysis of the relationship between the new construction grant amounts and the cost of new school construction. In July 2006, AB 127 provided for a one time increase of seven percent for elementary and middle school pupil grants and four percent for high school pupil grants. The SAB authorized a second increase of six percent for elementary, middle, and high school pupil grants pursuant to AB 127 in 2008.

In addition to the AB 127 increases, Education Code Section 17072.10(b) authorizes an annual grant adjustment based on a Class B Construction Cost Index. In 2009, the SAB approved a six percent increase to the grants pursuant to this Section. Collectively, these statutes have boosted SFP new construction pupil grants by 80 percent for K-8 grants and 75 percent for 9-12 grants since 1998.

The SAB approved the Project Information Worksheet in September 2007, enabling the collection of the richest dataset on public school construction costs in California’s history. The dataset includes detailed self-reported information on new construction project expenditures and facility components, including square footages of facilities built.

On Monday, November 2, the OPSC hosted a public meeting to discuss the findings of the New Construction Grant Adjustment Report. A subsequent public meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, to further address questions from stakeholders.

For more information, please contact:

Masha Lutsuk at (916) 445-8921 or masha.lutsuk@dgs.ca.gov

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Deferred Maintenance Annual Apportionment

by Richard Sheffield

On November 4, 2009, the State Allocation Board approved the 2008/2009 fiscal year funding for the Deferred Maintenance Program (DMP).

Over one thousand school districts shared approximately \$255 million in State DMP funding, provided primarily by the Governor's Budget and other funding sources. These funds will be released after December 1, 2009.

Due to 2009 Budget Act changes, districts are not required to deposit a matching share requirement this year and County Offices of Education are not required to certify to the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) deposits made by districts into their District Deferred Maintenance Fund.

For more detailed information on this subject, please visit the [Deferred Maintenance](#) page on the OPSC Web site or contact:

Bill Johnstone at (916) 323-8176 or bill.johnstone@dgs.ca.gov
 Richard Sheffield at (916) 322-0329 or richard.sheffield@dgs.ca.gov



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Recently Chaptered Legislation

The following table summarizes recently chaptered legislation impacting the State Allocation Board (SAB) and its programs. This information was presented to the SAB at the November 4, 2009 Board meeting. Comprehensive, program-specific evaluations for the implementation of these changes are currently in progress.

Bill	Summary
AB 1080 (Skinner) Chapter 383	School facilities: leases and agreements Authorizes school districts to enter into leases and agreements relating to real property and buildings to be used jointly by the district and a local governmental agency, as defined.
SB 312 (Romero) Chapter 179	Public meetings and hearings Requires the State Board of Education and the SAB to provide for live video and audio transmission of all public meetings and hearings.
SB 334 (Ducheny) Chapter 349	School facilities: new construction grant eligibility: special education pupils Requires an increase made to the per-unhoused-pupil grant amounts on or after January 1, 2010 to also be made to the Special Day Class (SDC) per-unhoused-pupil grant amounts. Also requires the Office of Public School Construction to recommend a methodology to adjust SDC grant amounts if a grant increase differentiates among the elementary, middle, and high school pupil groups.
SB 509 (Senate Education Committee) Chapter 303	Education Among other things, allows the SAB to apportion Deferred Maintenance funds anytime throughout the year by removing the requirement to apportion only after December 1 of each year.
SB 592 (Romero) Chapter 192	Charter Schools Facilities Program Permits charter schools, school districts, or local government entities to hold title to charter school facilities, as specified.

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Regulations Update:

Implementation of Senate Bill 658

- Adopted at the March 25, 2009, State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting.
- Phases out Multi-Track Year-Round Program Education operational grants and makes related SFP eligibility changes.
- Public comment period ended on October 12, 2009.

Implementation of Senate Bill 1556

- Adopted at the May 27, 2009, SAB meeting.
- Proposed regulatory changes allow elementary school districts that meet specific criteria to report enrollment on a High School Attendance Area basis.
- In public review period.

Seismic Mitigation Program Amendments

- Adopted at the August 26, 2009, SAB meeting with emergency status.
- Proposed to add four building types to the definition of "Most Vulnerable Category 2" school buildings and to reduce the ground shaking intensity factor criteria.
- In public review period.

Fiscal Crisis School Facility Program Amendments

- Adopted at the September 23, 2009, SAB meeting with emergency status.
- Proposed to extend the sunset date to January 1, 2011 for SAB authority to find apportionments and preliminary apportionments "inactive" for various programs.
- Review process continues.

Note: Regulations become effective upon review and approval of the Office of Administrative Law.

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Bond Proceeds Release Continues

By Veronica Kaldani and Michael Watanabe

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is continuing to release \$1.9 billion in bond sale proceeds for school facility projects that received an apportionment from the State Allocation Board, but received no funds due to the freeze placed on disbursements from the Pooled Money Investment Board. The OPSC processed the following fund releases:

March Bond Sale Proceeds:

Total funds released: \$547.9 million of \$548 million — 99 percent of bond funds

Total projects: 234 out of 235 — 99 percent of projects receiving funds

Total districts: 84 out of 85 school districts — 99 percent of districts

April Bond Sale Proceeds:

Total funds released: \$1.2 billion of \$1.4 billion — 86 percent of bond funds

Total projects: 282 out of 289 — 98 percent of projects receiving funds

Total districts: 117 out of 118 — 99 percent of districts



Did you know?

By Dennis Mehl

Over the last several years, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) has made a concerted effort to build a professional field audit program. A key element of a successful program is the experience of the Staff. With a combined total of over 200 years of auditing and accounting experience, the OPSC's audit staff provides a large knowledge base, significantly expanding our ability to implement a premier field audit program. Our goal is to retain highly skilled, professional staff to ensure that the audit process is managed in an efficient and effective manner. This enables us to provide a high level of service throughout the lifecycle of a project, minimizing future issues and ensuring accountability.

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Community Corner

Sara Coughlin Elementary School

Reception to showcase new classroom building

Wednesday, September 30, 2009—5:00 p.m.
Pacoima

Central Los Angeles Learning Center #1

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Saturday, October 10, 2009—10:00 a.m.
Los Angeles

Desert Ridge Academy

Dedication Ceremony

Friday, October 16, 2009—9:30 a.m.
Indio

Juanita Tate Elementary School

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Tuesday, October 20, 2009—10:00 a.m.
Los Angeles

South Los Angeles Area New High School #3

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Wednesday, October 21, 2009—1:00 p.m.
Los Angeles

Central Region Middle School #7

Fun Fence Exhibit

Wednesday, October 28, 2009—1:00 p.m.
Los Angeles

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Upcoming Meetings

New Construction Grant Adjustment Report Discussion

December 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol Room 126

State Allocation Board [View calendar](#)

January 27, 2010
February 24, 2010

[Webcasts of previous meetings](#)

Implementation Committee [View calendar](#)

December 3, 2009
February 4, 2010

[Webcasts of previous meetings](#)

Program Application Deadlines

Overcrowding Relief Grant - Fifth Round

- OPSC Application for Funding (Form SAB 50-04) due . . . January 29, 2010

Joint-Use Program Application due. March 2, 2010

Career Technical Education Facilities Program – Third Cycle

- OPSC Application for Funding (Form SAB 50-10) due April 1, 2010



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