

APPENDIX



The New Jersey Department of Education

Overview of

Grant Program

for School Facilities Projects
in Regular Operating Districts



School Facilities Grant Program

- \$3.9 billion total
- \$2.9 billion for SDA Districts
- \$1 billion for RODs, including \$50 million for vocational schools



ROD Grant Program

Major changes!

No longer "first come, first served" distribution

- Project eligibility requirements
- Prioritization process
- Fixed allocations and submission deadlines
- Funding limit for each allocation



Project Eligibility and Prioritization

To be considered for grant funding,
project scope must be

100% eligible for state support

and

**included in at least one of three
prioritization "levels."**



Project Eligibility and Prioritization

Level 1

Critical operational needs and program mandates

- Emergent projects
- Essential building system upgrades
- Building skin
- Building code issues
- ADA upgrades
- Hazardous materials abatement
- Security and communications systems
- Site drainage
- Elementary school playgrounds
- Renovated/new early childhood classrooms
- Special population needs



Project Eligibility and Prioritization

Level 2

Renewal of existing buildings, overcrowding, and improving quality of existing instructional spaces

- Repair/replacement of existing building systems and components not included in Level 1
- Existing site upgrades, excluding athletic fields and tracks
- Renovation and/or new construction of capacity-generating classrooms to address overcrowding or substandard conditions
- Technology infrastructure upgrades



Project Eligibility and Prioritization

Level 3

Major projects that include renovation and/or new construction

Projects ranked according to:

- District-wide unhoused students and overcrowding
- Early childhood program accommodations
- FES compliance
- Use of temporary or leased facilities
- Building age
- Project scope
- Prior grant funding



Project Eligibility and Prioritization

- Lower priority level applied if project scope spans multiple levels
- Funding of all priority levels in a particular allocation dependent upon demand
- No changes to debt service funding



Allocation Considerations

Two first year allocations scheduled

- Coordinate with April 2009 and September 2009 referenda
- Open to all project types
- \$200 million maximum for first allocation
- Subsequent allocations to be planned around September referenda with at least one allocation per year



Allocation Considerations

ALLOCATION 1

For April 2009 (or later) referendum and non-referendum projects

November 20, 2008 Application Deadline

ALLOCATION 2

For all referendum dates prior to September 2010 and summer 2009 projects

January 31, 2008 Application Deadline

**Districts must adhere to application deadline.
Submission must be complete.**

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District Notification

- No change to district submission requirements.
- Districts immediately notified if project scope does not qualify for grant consideration.
- Level 1 project and grant approvals may be released early.
- All Level 2 and Level 3 approvals released at same time to allow prioritization if grant request exceeds allocation.