



New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey Schools Development Authority Joint Broadcast

Date: November 2, 2022

To: Chief School Administrators

Route To: School Business Administrators
School Facility Managers

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NJSDA and NJDOE Announce Upcoming \$350 Million Grant Program for Regular Operating Districts

On June 30, 2022, Governor Murphy signed P.L.2022, c.18 which includes a direct appropriation of \$350 million to the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA) to provide funding for grant projects in Regular Operating Districts (ROD).

Under the ROD grant program, school districts are eligible to receive at least 40 percent of approved eligible project costs and some districts may be eligible for a higher share. The funding percentage for a grant is based upon each district's District Aid Percentage (DAP) multiplied by the eligible project costs established by New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). Districts must be able to demonstrate local matching funds for the balance of the project costs.

For a school facilities project to be considered for grant funding, the proposed scope of work must be 100 percent eligible for State support. Only projects that are 100 percent eligible for State support and included in the prioritization as outlined are eligible for a ROD grant. Funds may be used to address health and safety, essential upgrades or repairs, and other related projects.

Eligibility Requirements

For a school facilities project to be considered for grant funding, the proposed scope of work must be 100 percent eligible for State support and be included in one the priorities listed below. Once a school facilities project has been determined by the NJDOE to have 100 percent eligible scope, it will be categorized in one of the listed project areas for determination of sub-ranking priority. If the proposed scope of work is applicable to more than one project area, the project will be placed in the lower sub-ranking priority. Due to the limited funding and scope of this grant program, projects that would require a local referendum to raise the local share will not be considered.

Priority Level

Priority will be given to school facilities projects that address critical operational building needs, including health and safety issues and program mandates (listed in highest to lowest priority order):

- **Essential building systems upgrades** (*Repair or replacement of structural, mechanical/heating and*

cooling, electrical, and plumbing systems; Includes required refinishing work.)

- **Building skin** *(Repair or replacement of roof, windows, masonry, etc.)*
- **Building code issues**
- **ADA upgrades** *(Includes site and building access, toilet room renovations.)*
- **Hazardous material abatement** *(Radon, lead, asbestos, etc.; Includes required refinishing work.)*
- **Security and communications systems** *(Includes essential systems.)*
- **Technology infrastructure upgrades.**
- **Site drainage** *(To remediate an existing problem; Not in conjunction with new construction.)*
- **Elementary school playgrounds** *(Includes the upgrade or replacement of existing playgrounds to meet life cycle, safety, and/or consumer product safety codes; Not applicable for new playgrounds.)*
- **Renovated or new early childhood classrooms** *(Includes the renovation and/or new construction.)*
- **Special population needs** *(For program expansion or educational adequacy.)*
- **Existing site upgrades, excluding athletic fields and tracks** *(Includes upgrades to sidewalks, paving, fencing, and security lighting.)*
- **Renovation and/or new construction of capacity-generating classrooms to address overcrowding or substandard conditions.**

As previously stated, only projects that will not require a local referendum to raise the local funding portion will be eligible to receive grant funding. For those districts seeking larger projects that would require a local referendum, [Debt Service Aid](#) is available to provide state support for those projects through NJDOE. The application window for these funds is forthcoming.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group
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