



UPCOMING EVENTS

CASH Networking Mixer

October 26, 2023

4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

*Ballast Point Brewing –
Long Beach*

*Sponsored by: PacificWest,
LCC3, & Catalina Products
International*

**CASH Fall Conference &
Pre-Conference**

Workshop

October 11-13, 2023

*Hyatt Regency Newport
Beach*

**45th Annual Conference
on School Facilities**

*February 28 – March 1,
2024*

*Sacramento SAFE Credit
Union Convention Center*

Visit the CASH website
(www.cashnet.org) for
more information and to
register for these events!

UPDATE

Legislature Concludes First Year of Session

On September 14, the State Legislature concluded its final week of session before going into Interim Study Recess until January 3, 2024. Those bills that were approved by their respective policy committees, fiscal committees, and by the full Senate and Assembly, were sent to the Governor for his signature. The Governor has until October 14 to sign or veto bills that have been sent to him by the Legislature. Bills that were held in the legislative process are either dead or were turned into two-year bills, indicating their authors intend to keep working on them in the second year of the legislative session.

School Facilities Bond Bills Ready to Advance

Both school facilities bond bills fall into the latter category. AB 247 (Muratsuchi) the CASH-supported bond bill and SB 28 (Glazer) the Senate bond vehicle were held in the Appropriations committee in the second house without prejudice. The bond authors and stakeholders will continue to develop proposals to address transitional kindergarten, lead in water, and climate change as we await the Administration’s engagement in negotiations, and negotiations between the Senate and Assembly. Many of the same people involved in school bond negotiations are also involved in the *Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023*, which will come before the voters in the March 2024 Statewide Primary Election. In order to qualify for the November 2024 General Election ballot, a school facilities bond bill must be approved by the Legislature by the June 2024 deadline.

SAB Approves Changes to the Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, Full-Day Kindergarten Facility Grant Program

On September 27, 2023, the State Allocation Board approved modifications to the Program to extend fund release and project completion timelines. With the expansion of the program to include preschool and TK facilities, projects became more complex and faced numerous challenges to meeting the original timelines. Changes include:

- *Fund Release Deadline:* Amended the current deadline that school districts must submit the required plan approvals and full fund release request from 180 days (projects *without* Advanced Release of Funds) or 12 months (projects *with* Advanced Release of Funds) from the first Apportionment to **18 months** from the first Apportionment.
- *Project Completion Deadline:* Amended the current deadline by which school districts must meet project completion requirements from one year from the date of the final fund release to **three years** from the date of the first Apportionment.
- Provide an option for school districts to submit other evidence in writing to the Board demonstrating that substantial progress has been made on the project if they are unable to submit a request for full fund release within 18 months. However, in no instance will a district have more than a combined three years



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from the first Apportionment to request the release of funds and complete the project.

These changes apply to projects apportioned in Round 3 (2022) and Round 4 (2023). CASH appreciates the modifications, which will help ensure that schools are able to complete these critical projects.

Status of Water Quality and Extreme Heat Mitigation Bills

In addition to healthy indoor air quality and efficient ventilation, which became a focus for school facility and maintenance departments during the Covid-19 pandemic, water quality and extreme heat mitigation have also become a focus for legislative and regulatory decision-makers in Sacramento as part of a larger concern about mitigating the effects of climate change.

AB 249 (Holden) was introduced this year, which would reduce the numeric trigger for water quality testing at K-12 schools from the current 15 ppb to a more stringent 5 ppb (the current standard for childcare facilities), as well as required testing of all potable water outlets (verses a sampling under AB 746) for nearly all K-12 schools. As under AB 746, community water systems are required to conduct the testing. AB 249 is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting his action. CASH and other statewide educational associations are requesting the bill be vetoed due to the cost impact and the fact that federal requirements are currently being developed that will require the same testing and sampling requirements as AB 249.

SB 499 (Menjivar) was introduced this year, which would require all schools to develop an Extreme Heat Action Plan, and of significant concern to the school facilities and maintenance community, would prohibit the use of 'high heat' surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, artificial turf, and playground impact materials, and instead require the planting of more natural vegetation. CASH agrees with the broad concern for extreme heat on school campuses (heat island effect, climate change) and recognizes the many benefits of less impervious surfaces and more plants and organic materials, but we believe that this should be a local decision to account for differences in access to funding, regional climate and other significant variables. This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee so will not advance this year, but it is likely that this or similar legislation will be introduced next year.

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