



County Office of Education Facilities Meeting Report

December 2023

Supporting America's School Infrastructure Grant Program (SASI) Grant Program Fact Sheet

California small school districts (enrollment < 2,500) face significant challenges in addressing their school building needs. Compared to larger districts, small school districts (SSDs) often have fewer site facility/maintenance staff, limited district support staff, and a lack of school facilities funding expertise. The intent of the federal Supporting America's School Infrastructure (SASI) Grant Program can help address the needs of the SSDs. It is also aligned with the mission of the California Department of Education (CDE). Under Education Code 17251(e), the CDE is charged with assessing and advising local education agencies of the building needs of their school sites. The SASI will further bolster CDE's efforts to create capacity for these "high needs" districts.

Through SASI, CDE will develop a system of support through the following activities:

- **Direct Technical Assistance Program**

- Through a contract, CDE will bring career school facility professionals to selected SSD sites to a) assess facility needs, b) estimate costs, c) identify funding options, and d) coordinate in the development of various facility contracts (i.e., testing, architect, Inspector of Record, construction).
- This program will train and support school site's custodial/maintenance staff, Principal/Superintendent and Chief Business Officials on the cycle of facilities maintenance and capital outlay.
- Through this hands-on approach, the CDE and County Offices of Education (COEs) will learn in real time the challenges SSDs face with maintaining their facilities to inform the development of training and resources.

- **State and County Collaboration**

- In collaboration with facilities and maintenance staff at various COEs, CDE will develop a network of facility practitioners to sustain support for SSDs.
- CDE and COEs will offer quarterly convenings tailored to the needs of SSD facility challenges.
- Partner with other state agencies to address the challenges of accessing state funding programs for districts with limited expertise/capacity.

- **Centralized Online Resources**

- Dedicate a portal or webpage to school facilities maintenance to support

the three pillars: Maintenance Assessment, State/National Funding Streams, Contract Development and Management.

- Create standardized forms and documents for district use.
- Develop an On-Demand library of resources including webinars, short videos, etc.

- **State Level Expertise on Facility Maintenance**

- CDE will fund one FTE position to serve as a statewide School Facilities Maintenance Specialist. This position will:
 - serve as a liaison with the COEs to further advance the work of maintaining school sites.
 - build capacity of the CDE/Office of Learning Environment staff to support small school districts.

Green Ribbon Schools State-wide Network Meeting

Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting:
CAELI Green Ribbon Statewide Network - January 2024.
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

Thursday, January 11, 2024: 3:30 - 4:30 pm

“Resource Conservation and Connections between Pillar I and Pillar III”

Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kc-qrTwoHNPYOSkKGHxTjWLXE3HKVQML#/registration>

Contact: George Garcia, at ggarcia@cde.ca.gov or 916-322-0310

Site Renewals

In 2024, the School Facilities and Transportation Services Division (SFTSD) will be making some procedural changes for School Site Renewal Letter requests. LEAs will have to submit an application and additional information to ensure that the site still meets Title 5 Regulations and that their CEQA, DTSC, and other determinations are still valid. Next month, please see our “What’s New” webpage for more information.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/whatsnew.asp>

Important Date: A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program

Reporting: Must report to the CDE by December 31, 2023, on how the LEA is measuring the impact on the A-G completion rate. Final report of expenditures due to CDE by August 31, 2026.

Questions: Categorical Allocations and Audit Resolution Office CAAR@cde.ca.gov