



Fact Sheet: School Facilities

California's Students Deserve World-Class Schools

California's school facilities are an essential component of the state's educational program. Schools will have difficulty reducing class size or providing necessary technology, school safety, health or social services without sufficient school facilities to meet those needs. Students and school staff should be able to work in an atmosphere that is environmentally safe, well maintained, conducive to learning, technologically and structurally up-to-date, and free from overcrowding.

California's Infrastructure Needs for Schools

- The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that "one in three California school children attend an overcrowded school or a school needing modernization. Statewide, the cost to correct these problems totals about \$30 billion with the state's share of cost exceeding \$17 billion."
- The state's School Facilities Planning Division estimates that it would cost \$7.27 billion to build all the schools needed to house California students over the next five years.
- California voters and local communities have shown a commitment to school facilities by passing 11 statewide bonds worth some \$15.5 billion in the past two decades and about \$18 billion in local bonds since 1986.
- The state Department of Finance estimates that the state's enrollment growth will total nearly 206,000 new students between now and 2006.
- The Office of Public School Construction estimates that by 2010, there will be more than 1 million new students in California. Based on these figures, the state predicts that local districts will need to add 46,000 new classrooms or 1,175 new schools over the next five years to relieve overcrowding and accommodate new students. (2001)

- It is estimated that higher education needs 192 primary and satellite campuses for incoming students, including 10,000 buildings containing 138 million square feet of facilities space. (Legislative Analyst's Office, 2001)
- Since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, local school districts have been increasingly dependent on the State for operating funds. The State pays about half the costs for new facilities.

Schools Require Stringent Modernization Demands

- Federal standards for seismic safety, architectural design and accessibility to students, parents and staff with special needs, environmental costs and simply determining whether a site can be made safe for a school can be astronomically high.
- The state's School Facilities Planning Division estimates that it would cost almost \$22 billion to take care of the state's modernization and deferred maintenance backlog.
- Even after these school projects are constructed, however, demand will not abate for state support for school facilities. As enrollments grow and school facilities age, school districts will develop further capital outlay needs.