

**22-24-5. Public school capital outlay projects; application; grant assistance.**

A. Applications for grant assistance, approval of applications, prioritization of projects and grant awards shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of this section.

B. Except as provided in Sections 22-24-4.3, 22-24-5.4 and 22-24-5.6 NMSA 1978, the following provisions govern grant assistance from the fund for a public school capital outlay project not wholly funded pursuant to Section 22-24-4.1 NMSA 1978:

(1) all school districts are eligible to apply for funding from the fund, regardless of percentage of indebtedness;

(2) priorities for funding shall be determined by using the statewide adequacy standards developed pursuant to Subsection C of this section; provided that:

(a) the council shall apply the standards to charter schools to the same extent that they are applied to other public schools;

(b) the council shall adopt and apply adequacy standards appropriate to the unique needs of the constitutional special schools; and

(c) in an emergency in which the health or safety of students or school personnel is at immediate risk or in which there is a threat of significant property damage, the council may award grant assistance for a project using criteria other than the statewide adequacy standards;

(3) the council shall establish criteria to be used in public school capital outlay projects that receive grant assistance pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act. In establishing the criteria, the council shall consider:

(a) the feasibility of using design, build and finance arrangements for public school capital outlay projects;

(b) the potential use of more durable construction materials that may reduce long-term operating costs;

(c) concepts that promote efficient but flexible utilization of space; and

(d) any other financing or construction concept that may maximize the dollar effect of the state grant assistance;

(4) no more than ten percent of the combined total of grants in a funding cycle shall be used for retrofitting existing facilities for technology infrastructure;

(5) except as provided in Paragraph (6), (8), (9) or (10) of this subsection, the state share of a project approved and ranked by the council shall be funded within available resources pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph. No later than May 1 of each calendar year, a value shall be calculated for each school district in accordance with the following procedure:

(a) the final prior year net taxable value for a school district divided by the MEM for that school district is calculated for each school district;

(b) the final prior year net taxable value for the whole state divided by the MEM for the state is calculated;

(c) excluding any school district for which the result calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph is more than twice the result calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, the results calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph are listed from highest to lowest;

(d) the lowest value listed pursuant to Subparagraph (c) of this paragraph is subtracted from the highest value listed pursuant to that subparagraph;

(e) the value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph for the subject school district is subtracted from the highest value listed in Subparagraph (c) of this paragraph;

(f) the result calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (e) of this paragraph is divided by the result calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (d) of this paragraph;

(g) the sum of the property tax mill levies for the prior tax year imposed by each school district on residential property pursuant to Chapter 22, Article 18 NMSA 1978, the Public School Capital Improvements Act [Chapter 22, Article 25 NMSA 1978], the Public School Buildings Act [Chapter 22, Article 26 NMSA 1978], the Education Technology Equipment Act [6-15A-1 through 6-15A-16 NMSA 1978] and Paragraph (2) of Subsection B of Section 7-37-7 NMSA 1978 is calculated for each school district;

(h) the lowest value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (g) of this paragraph is subtracted from the highest value calculated pursuant to that subparagraph;

(i) the lowest value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (g) of this paragraph is subtracted from the value calculated pursuant to that subparagraph for the subject school district;

(j) the value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (i) of this paragraph is divided by the value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (h) of this paragraph;

(k) if the value calculated for a subject school district pursuant to Subparagraph (j) of this paragraph is less than five-tenths, then, except as provided in Subparagraph (n) or (o) of this paragraph, the value for that school district equals the value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (f) of this paragraph;

(l) if the value calculated for a subject school district pursuant to Subparagraph (j) of this paragraph is five-tenths or greater, then that value is multiplied by five-hundredths;

(m) if the value calculated for a subject school district pursuant to Subparagraph (j) of this paragraph is five-tenths or greater, then the value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (l) of this paragraph is added to the value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (f) of this paragraph. Except as provided in Subparagraph (n) or (o) of this paragraph, the sum equals the value for that school district;

(n) in those instances in which the calculation pursuant to Subparagraph (k) or (m) of this paragraph yields a value less than one-tenth, one-tenth shall be used as the value for the

subject school district;

(o) in those instances in which the calculation pursuant to Subparagraph (k) or (m) of this paragraph yields a value greater than one, one shall be used as the value for the subject school district;

(p) except as provided in Section 22-24-5.7 NMSA 1978 and except as adjusted pursuant to Paragraph (6), (8), (9) or (10) of this subsection, the amount to be distributed from the fund for an approved project shall equal the total project cost multiplied by a fraction the numerator of which is the value calculated for the subject school district in the current year plus the value calculated for that school district in each of the two preceding years and the denominator of which is three; and

(q) as used in this paragraph: 1) "MEM" means the average full-time-equivalent enrollment of students attending public school in a school district on the eightieth and one hundred twentieth days of the prior school year; 2) "total project cost" means the total amount necessary to complete the public school capital outlay project less any insurance reimbursement received by the school district for the project; and 3) in the case of a state-chartered charter school that has submitted an application for grant assistance pursuant to this section, the "value calculated for the subject school district" means the value calculated for the school district in which the state-chartered charter school is physically located;

(6) the amount calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (p) of Paragraph (5) of this subsection shall be reduced by the following procedure:

(a) the total of all legislative appropriations made after January 1, 2003 for nonoperating purposes either directly to the subject school district or to another governmental entity for the purpose of passing the money through directly to the subject school district, and not rejected by the subject school district, is calculated; provided that: 1) an appropriation made in a fiscal year shall be deemed to be accepted by a school district unless, prior to June 1 of that fiscal year, the school district notifies the department of finance and administration and the public education department that the district is rejecting the appropriation; 2) the total shall exclude any education technology appropriation made prior to January 1, 2005 unless the appropriation was on or after January 1, 2003 and not previously used to offset distributions pursuant to the Technology for Education Act [Chapter 22, Article 15A NMSA 1978]; 3) the total shall exclude any appropriation previously made to the subject school district that is reauthorized for expenditure by another recipient; 4) the total shall exclude one-half of the amount of any appropriation made or reauthorized after January 1, 2007 if the purpose of the appropriation or reauthorization is to fund, in whole or in part, a capital outlay project that, when prioritized by the council pursuant to this section either in the immediately preceding funding cycle or in the current funding cycle, ranked in the top one hundred fifty projects statewide; 5) the total shall exclude the proportionate share of any appropriation made or reauthorized after January 1, 2008 for a capital project that will be jointly used by a governmental entity other than the subject school district. Pursuant to criteria adopted by rule of the council and based upon the proposed use of the capital project, the council shall determine the proportionate share to be used

by the governmental entity and excluded from the total; and 6) unless the grant award is made to the state-chartered charter school or unless the appropriation was previously used to calculate a reduction pursuant to this paragraph, the total shall exclude appropriations made after January 1, 2007 for nonoperating purposes of a specific state-chartered charter school, regardless of whether the charter school is a state-chartered charter school at the time of the appropriation or later opts to become a state-chartered charter school;

(b) the applicable fraction used for the subject school district and the current calendar year for the calculation in Subparagraph (p) of Paragraph (5) of this subsection is subtracted from one;

(c) the value calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (a) of this paragraph for the subject school district is multiplied by the amount calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this paragraph for that school district;

(d) the total amount of reductions for the subject school district previously made pursuant to Subparagraph (e) of this paragraph for other approved public school capital outlay projects is subtracted from the amount calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (c) of this paragraph; and

(e) the amount calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (p) of Paragraph (5) of this subsection shall be reduced by the amount calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (d) of this paragraph;

(7) as used in this subsection:

(a) "governmental entity" includes an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo; and

(b) "subject school district" means the school district that has submitted the application for funding and in which the approved public school capital outlay project will be located;

(8) the amount calculated pursuant to Subparagraph (p) of Paragraph (5) of this subsection, after any reduction pursuant to Paragraph (6) of this subsection, may be increased by an additional five percent if the council finds that the subject school district has been exemplary in implementing and maintaining a preventive maintenance program. The council shall adopt such rules as are necessary to implement the provisions of this paragraph;

(9) the council may adjust the amount of local share otherwise required if it determines that a school district has made a good-faith effort to use all of its local resources. Before making any adjustment to the local share, the council shall consider whether:

(a) the school district has insufficient bonding capacity over the next four years to provide the local match necessary to complete the project and, for all educational purposes, has a residential property tax rate of at least ten dollars (\$10.00) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of taxable value, as measured by the sum of all rates imposed by resolution of the local school board plus rates set to pay interest and principal on outstanding school district general obligation bonds;

(b) the school district: 1) has fewer than an average of eight hundred full-time-equivalent students on the eightieth and one hundred twentieth days of the prior school year; 2) has at least seventy percent of its students eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch; 3) has a share of the total project cost, as calculated pursuant to provisions of this section, that would be greater than fifty percent; and 4) for all educational purposes, has a residential property tax rate of at least seven dollars (\$7.00) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of taxable value, as measured by the sum of all rates imposed by resolution of the local school board plus rates set to pay interest and principal on outstanding school district general obligation bonds; or

(c) the school district: 1) has an enrollment growth rate over the previous school year of at least two and one-half percent; 2) pursuant to its five-year facilities plan, will be building a new school within the next two years; and 3) for all educational purposes, has a residential property tax rate of at least ten dollars (\$10.00) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of taxable value, as measured by the sum of all rates imposed by resolution of the local school board plus rates set to pay interest and principal on outstanding school district general obligation bonds;

(10) the local match for the constitutional special schools shall be set at fifty percent for projects that qualify under the educational adequacy category and one hundred percent for projects that qualify in the support spaces category; provided that the council may adjust or waive the amount of any direct appropriation offset to or local share required for the constitutional special schools if an applicant constitutional special school has insufficient or no local resources available; and

(11) no application for grant assistance from the fund shall be approved unless the council determines that:

(a) the public school capital outlay project is needed and included in the school district's five-year facilities plan among its top priorities;

(b) the school district has used its capital resources in a prudent manner;

(c) the school district has provided insurance for buildings of the school district in accordance with the provisions of Section 13-5-3 NMSA 1978;

(d) the school district has submitted a five-year facilities plan that includes: 1) enrollment projections; 2) a current preventive maintenance plan that has been approved by the council pursuant to Section 22-24-5.3 NMSA 1978 and that is followed by each public school in the district; 3) the capital needs of charter schools located in the school district; and 4) projections for the facilities needed in order to maintain a full-day kindergarten program;

(e) the school district is willing and able to pay any portion of the total cost of the public school capital outlay project that, according to Paragraph (5), (6), (8) or (9) of this subsection, is not funded with grant assistance from the fund; provided that school district funds used for a project that was initiated after September 1, 2002 when the statewide adequacy standards were adopted, but before September 1, 2004 when the standards were first used as the basis for determining the state and school district share of a project, may be applied to the school

district portion required for that project;

(f) the application includes the capital needs of any charter school located in the school district or the school district has shown that the facilities of the charter school have a smaller deviation from the statewide adequacy standards than other district facilities included in the application; and

(g) the school district has agreed, in writing, to comply with any reporting requirements or conditions imposed by the council pursuant to Section 22-24-5.1 NMSA 1978.

C. After consulting with the public school capital outlay oversight task force and other experts, the council shall regularly review and update statewide adequacy standards applicable to all school districts. The standards shall establish the acceptable level for the physical condition and capacity of buildings, the educational suitability of facilities and the need for education technology infrastructure. Except as otherwise provided in the Public School Capital Outlay Act, the amount of outstanding deviation from the standards shall be used by the council in evaluating and prioritizing public school capital outlay projects.

D. The acquisition of a facility by a school district or charter school pursuant to a financing agreement that provides for lease payments with an option to purchase for a price that is reduced according to lease payments made may be considered a public school capital outlay project and eligible for grant assistance under this section pursuant to the following criteria:

(1) no grant shall be awarded unless the council determines that, at the time of exercising the option to purchase the facility by the school district or charter school, the facility will equal or exceed the statewide adequacy standards and the building standards for public school facilities;

(2) no grant shall be awarded unless the school district and the need for the facility meet all of the requirements for grant assistance pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act;

(3) the total project cost shall equal the total payments that would be due under the agreement if the school district or charter school would eventually acquire title to the facility;

(4) the portion of the total project cost to be paid from the fund may be awarded as one grant, but disbursements from the fund shall be made from time to time as lease payments become due;

(5) the portion of the total project cost to be paid by the school district or charter school may be paid from time to time as lease payments become due; and

(6) neither a grant award nor any provision of the Public School Capital Outlay Act creates a legal obligation for the school district or charter school to continue the lease from year to year or to purchase the facility.

E. In order to encourage private capital investment in the construction of public school facilities, the purchase of a privately owned school facility that is, at the time of application, in use by a school district may be considered a public school capital outlay project and eligible for

grant assistance pursuant to this section if the council finds that:

(1) at the time of the initial use by the school district, the facility to be purchased equaled or exceeded the statewide adequacy standards and the building standards for public school facilities;

(2) at the time of application, attendance at the facility to be purchased is at seventy-five percent or greater of design capacity and the attendance at other schools in the school district that the students at the facility would otherwise attend is at eighty-five percent or greater of design capacity; and

(3) the school district and the capital outlay project meet all of the requirements for grant assistance pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act; provided that, when determining the deviation from the statewide adequacy standards for the purposes of evaluating and prioritizing the project, the students using the facility shall be deemed to be attending other schools in the school district.

F. It is the intent of the legislature that grant assistance made pursuant to this section allows every school district to meet the standards developed pursuant to Subsection C of this section; provided, however, that nothing in the Public School Capital Outlay Act or the development of standards pursuant to that act prohibits a school district from using other funds available to the district to exceed the statewide adequacy standards.

G. Upon request, the council shall work with, and provide assistance and information to, the public school capital outlay oversight task force.

H. The council may establish committees or task forces, not necessarily consisting of council members, and may use the committees or task forces, as well as existing agencies or organizations, to conduct studies, conduct surveys, submit recommendations or otherwise contribute expertise from the public schools, programs, interest groups and segments of society most concerned with a particular aspect of the council's work.

I. Upon the recommendation of the public school facilities authority, the council shall develop building standards for public school facilities and shall promulgate other such rules as are necessary to carry out the provisions of the Public School Capital Outlay Act.

J. No later than December 15 of each year, the council shall prepare a report summarizing its activities during the previous fiscal year. The report shall describe in detail all projects funded, the progress of projects previously funded but not completed, the criteria used to prioritize and fund projects and all other council actions. The report shall be submitted to the public education commission, the governor, the legislative finance committee, the legislative education study committee and the legislature.

History: 1953 Comp., § 77-24-13, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 235, § 5; 1977, ch. 247, § 205; 1978, ch. 152, § 5; 1987, ch. 326, § 1; 1994, ch. 88, § 3; 2000 (2nd S.S.), ch. 19, § 2; 2001, ch. 338, § 8; 2003, ch. 147, § 10; 2004, ch. 125, § 9; 2005, ch. 274, § 8; 2006, ch. 95, § 5; 2007, ch. 366, § 6; 2008, ch. 90, § 2; 2009, ch. 258, § 5; 2010, ch. 104, § 2; 2012, ch. 53, § 2; 2014, ch. 28, § 3.

**Cross references.** — For PL 874 funds, see 20 USCS § 7701 et seq.

**The 2014 amendment**, effective March 6, 2014, permitted the public school outlay council to adjust the amount of the local share if it determines that a school district has made a good-faith effort to use all of its local resources; in Subsection B, Paragraph (6), Subparagraph (a), after "2) the total shall exclude any", deleted "educational" and added "education"; in Subsection B, Paragraph (9), in the introductory sentence, after "school district has", deleted "used" and added "made a good-faith effort to use"; and in Subsection C, in the second sentence, after "and the need for", deleted "technological" and added "education technology".

**The 2012 amendment**, effective May 16, 2012, made the school for the blind and visually impaired and the school for the deaf, including facilities that are necessary for their educational missions, eligible for public school capital outlay funding; permitted the council to waive local matching if the schools have insufficient or no local resources available; and in Subsection B, in Paragraph (2), added Subparagraph (b); in Paragraph (5), in the first sentence, after the paragraph number "(9)", added "or (10)"; in Paragraph (5), in Subparagraph (p), after the paragraph number "(9)", added "or (10)"; in Paragraph (6), deleted former Subparagraph (b), which required that the amount to be distributed for a project be reduced by the amount of federal money received by the school district for nonoperating purposes; in Paragraph (6), deleted former Subparagraph (c), which required that the amount to be distributed for a project be reduced by the amount of state appropriations to the school district for nonoperating purposes; and added Paragraph (10).

**Laws 2010, ch. 104, § 2**, effective March 9, 2010, would have amended 22-24-5 NMSA 1978 as follows: in Subsection B(5), after "Paragraph (6), (8), (9)", added "or (11)"; in Subsection B(5)(p), after "Paragraph (6), (8), (9)", added "or (11)"; and added Subsection B(11), including Subparagraphs (a) and (b). These changes were line-item vetoed by the governor.

**The 2009 amendment**, effective April 8, 2009, in Paragraph (5) of Subsection B, added the reference to Paragraph (11); in Subparagraph (p) of Paragraph (5) of Subsection B, added the reference to Paragraph (11); added Subparagraphs (b) and (c) of Paragraph (6) of Subsection B; added Paragraph (11) of Subsection B; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection D, after "awarded unless the council", deleted "finds that, prior to the purchase of" and added "determines that, at the time of exercising the option to purchase"; and in Subsection F, after "prohibits a school district from using" changed "local funds to exceed" to "other funds available to the district to exceed".

**The 2008 amendment**, effective May 14, 2008, added the reference to Paragraph (9) of Subsection B in Paragraph (5), Subparagraph (p) of Paragraph (5) and Subparagraph (e) of Paragraph (10) of Subsection B; added item 5) of Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph (6) of Subsection B; and added Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph (7) and Paragraph (8) of Subsection B.

**The 2007 amendment**, effective July 1, 2007, amended Subsection B to: add Subparagraph (c) of Paragraph (3); add item (3) of Subparagraph (q) of Paragraph (5) of Subsection B to define "value calculated for the subject school district"; and add items (2) through (5) of Subparagraph (a) of Paragraph (6); and, added new Subsections D and E.

**The 2006 amendment**, effective March 6, 2006, deleted the provision in Subsection A that provided an order of priority and funding of projects in the two years beginning July 1, 2004; in Subsection B, deleted the reference to Subsection A of this section; in Subparagraph (p) of Paragraph (5) of Subsection B, added the exception in Section 22-24-5.7 NMSA 1978 and deleted the provision that provided for a formula to determine the distribution for calendar year 2005; and in Subparagraph (b) of Paragraph (7) of Subsection B, deleted "fortieth" before "eightieth".

**The 2005 amendment**, effective April 6, 2005, changed "three years" to "two years" and changed "projects" to "specific projects" in Subsection A; provided in Subsection A that the order of projects that were partially funded shall exclude any expansion of the scope of the projects; changed the statutory reference in Subsection B and revised the funding priorities in Subsection B.

**The 2004 amendment**, effective May 19, 2004, replaced Subsections A and B with new Subsection A; designated former Subsection C as the last sentence of new Subsection A and added new language prior to Paragraph (1) of former Subsection C, now Subsection B; redesignated former Subsection D as Subsection C; redesignated former Subsections E through I as Subsections D through H; amended Subsection G to add the requirement of recommendation of the authority at the beginning of the subsection; and in Subsection H, changed "state board" to "public education commission" and deleted "each member of" preceding "the legislature".

**The 2003 amendment**, effective April 4, 2003, inserted Paragraph B(2) and redesignated former Paragraph B(2) as B(3); rewrote Paragraph C(5); inserted present Paragraphs C(6) and C(7), and redesignated the remaining paragraphs accordingly; substituted "that has been approved by the council pursuant to Section 22-24-5.3 NMSA 1978 and that is followed by" for "to which the school adheres for" in Subparagraph C(9)(d); substituted "(6) or (8) of this subsection" for "established by law" in Subparagraph C(9)(e); and in Subsection D, deleted "no later than September 1, 2002"; inserted "and regularly review and update" preceding "statewide adequacy standards" in the first sentence and substituted "December 15" for "December 1" in Subsection I.

**The 2001 amendment**, effective April 5, 2001, rewrote the section.

**The 2000 amendment**, effective April 12, 2000, inserted "school" at the beginning of Subsection A(4) and in the second sentence of Subsection B; in Subsection A(6), added "unless a determination and certification have been made pursuant to Subsection D of this section" to the preliminary language, designated the existing provisions of the subsection as Subparagraph (a) and added Subparagraph (b); in Subsection B, added Subsection B(1) and designated part of former Subsection B as Paragraph (2); and added Subsections D and E.

**The 1994 amendment**, effective May 18, 1994, deleted "all" preceding "available resources" in Paragraph A(2) and added Paragraphs A(6) and A(7), making related stylistic changes.