

160-5-4-.03 APPLICATIONS FOR STATE CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING.

(1) REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Before an application may be submitted for a project, a local school system shall have a Local Facilities Plan approved by the state board and the project must be included in the approved facilities plan.

(b) A local board of education shall submit capital outlay applications that contain:

1. The proposed facilities improvements coordinated with the instructional program as outlined in the local facilities plan or the system's completed *House Bill 1187 Needs Analysis* documents.

2. Cost estimates adjusted to current construction costs as necessary.

3. The instructional and support space needs for each priority (school).

(c) The local board of education, with verification of the department, shall make adjustments if there has been an increase or decrease in the total projected FTE since the facilities plan was approved, prior to submitting an application.

(d) To receive a reduction in required local participation in an application, a declaration of intent to use a prototype design must be submitted by the local board of education on forms provided by the department prior to the time an application is submitted for the project. This declaration shall represent an agreement to complete the project as described in the declaration and in the application submitted for the project. Failure to abide by the agreement will result in a recalculation of the system's required local participation in the project and the amount of state funds the system will be eligible to receive for that project.

(e) Local boards of education requesting state funds for capital outlay projects as provided in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-260 or § 20-2-262 shall submit three copies of the application on forms furnished by the department no later than September 1 of the year preceding the fiscal year for which the funds are requested with the following attachments.

1. The system's Certificate of Title (or a copy of the warranty deed) for each school site, unless one is already on file in the department.

2. Letter of Assurance from the Flood Plain Management Coordinator of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources that the site is not in a flood plain or coastal high hazard area.

3. Copy of the 25-year across-system contract, if applicable.

(f) The local school system shall provide funding of the difference between required local funds plus state funds and the state eligible project costs needed to complete the project according to state requirements. The system shall receive credit for eligible costs funded with these additional local funds if these funds are derived from property tax revenue collected for the maintenance and operation of schools, sales tax revenue, or bond proceeds if the bond principal and interest shall be repaid from funds derived from a property tax levy.

(g) When the total space needs in a proposed project application exceed the space required for a given population as reflected in the facilities plan, the application shall be approved only if additional local funds are provided to cover the cost of the project for the space in excess of that required by state formula.

(h) More than one priority project may be included in a system's regular, low-wealth, special appropriation, or exceptional growth capital outlay application if the entitlement or allocation from a special appropriation, plus the required local amount, is sufficient to cover the cost of the multiple projects. School systems shall give priority to elementary school construction projects.

(i) If a need for new construction exists in a project for which an application is being submitted and exceptional growth entitlement is available, exceptional growth entitlement shall be applied to project costs for new construction before regular capital outlay entitlement is utilized to fund new construction if no other unfunded new construction activities remain to be funded in the system's plan.

(j) When making application, a local system shall have the required local amount on hand, in its current approved budget as a line item or in the capital outlay account. Combinations of fund sources may be used to equal the required local amount.

(k) Portable units shall not be accepted as a state funded project in any capital outlay application under this program.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-260; 20-2-262.

Adopted: May 18, 2001

Effective: June 10, 2001

