



PRESS RELEASE

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Schwarzenegger Signs \$10.4 Billion Education Infrastructure Bond Component of Strategic Growth Plan

Gov. Schwarzenegger today signed AB 127, authored by Assemblymember Fabian Nunez (D - Los Angeles), the Strategic Growth Plan education proposal which authorizes the placement of a \$10.4 billion general obligation bond to fund K-12 and Higher Education on the November 2006 ballot.

"Our children deserve to go to safe, modern and uncrowded schools," said Governor Schwarzenegger at a bill signing ceremony at Breed Street Elementary School in Los Angeles. "The education bond will finance desperately needed infrastructure projects throughout California's education system. This bond and the entire Strategic Growth Plan are examples of the great things can happen when Democrats and Republicans work together."

With the Governor's signature, the bond will be placed on the November ballot. Last week, he signed a \$4.5 billion levee bond, \$20 billion transportation bond and the \$2.85 billion housing bond. Including the \$10.4 billion for education, the Strategic Growth Plan will place a total of \$37.3 billion on the ballot for voters to consider.

Highlights include:

-Career Technical Education: Provides \$500 million in supplemental grants for facilities.

- This is the first time in state history that funding for Career Technical Education is included in a state bond.
- Funding will be applied to new facility construction and reconfiguration.

-Charter Schools: Provides \$500 million for facilities.

- This is the largest state bond funding for charter school facilities in California history.
- The bond's requirements limit the reduction of school district eligibility when new charter facility construction is authorized, and requires school districts to consider existing surplus facilities in accordance with current law.

-Overcrowded Schools: Authorizes the State Allocation Board to make grants to overcrowded schools.

- The bond is expected to fully fund all projects in the pipeline in 2006-2008 bond cycle, accommodating the anticipated rise in student population over this timeframe.
- Grants would be available to replace a portion of portable classrooms at overcrowded schools with new hard construction permanent facilities.
- Overcrowded is defined as having a pupil density equal to or greater than 175% of the current guidelines.Â

-Seismic Safety: Creates a new seismic safety program with up to \$200 million made available to those schools identified as having the highest risk for potential seismic damage.

-Higher Education: Provides \$3.087 billion to public college and university facilities.

- \$1.580 billion for the University of California and California State University systems
- \$1.5 billion for California Community Colleges. This is the highest bond allocation to community colleges in state history.

K-12 Allocation

Program / Total Funding

New Construction - \$1.9 billion

Modernization - \$3.3 billion

Career Technical - \$500 million

Charter Schools - \$500 million

Overcrowded Portables - \$1 billion

Small Schools - \$200 million*

Seismic Safety - \$200 million*

Green Schools - \$100 million

Joint Use Facilities - \$29 million

Total (\$ in billions) - \$7.329

*Amounts for small schools and seismic safety are not added to totals, but are set-aside within the new construction and modernization amounts

Higher Education Allocation

- Institution Total Funding
- University of California - \$890 million
- California State University - \$690 million
- Community Colleges - \$1.5 billion
- Total (\$ in billions) - \$3.087

For Los Angeles County, the bond proposal represents more than \$3 billion for new construction and modernization of elementary schools, middle schools and high schools, at more than 50 different sites around the area.