

SCHOOL FACILITY BONDS IN 2024

BUILDING SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS WHILE ACHIEVING OUR CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS

ISSUE: Funding for K-14 School Construction & Modernization Projects

California needs to build new schools and modernize existing facilities to meet the educational needs of our state's students in K-12, as well as, meet our safety, health and climate change goals. AB 247 (Muratsuchi) will authorize a K-12 school facility bond for voter consideration in 2024 to accomplish these public interest goals.

These resources are essential to ensure community access to energy-efficient and decarbonized school facilities that place the highest priority on safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for our children.

KEY POINTS:

- **State School Bonds in 2024 are necessary to fund the huge backlog of school facility projects.** Existing state bond authority for the 'New Construction' program has been exhausted since September 2018, and the 'Modernization' bond authority has been exhausted since April 1, 2019. Existing school facilities require major ventilation and safety updates and repairs to ensure the health and safety of students. Current backlog of eligible project applications in 2023-24 is \$5.6B and is expected to grow to \$10.7B by 2025-26.
- **Many of our existing facilities' HVAC systems need to be retrofitted** for energy efficiency and to provide a comfortable and well ventilated learning environment for the health of our students and teachers.
- **Classroom Ventilation Improves Health and Performance of Students**
The GAO says 41% of school districts need HVAC repairs and upgrades in at least half of their schools, which is equivalent to about 4,100 buildings in CA. Schools with outdated HVAC systems and, therefore, poor ventilation and indoor air quality, are putting the health and performance of students and staff at risk. High levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and the spread of pathogens in classrooms can ultimately affect performance, concentration, physical health and well-being of occupants. To learn more go to: [WeAreWhatWeBreathe.com](https://www.waweb.com)
- **Schools have an important role to play in our state's Climate Change goals.** These funds will allow our schools to be built and modernized as model structures for a Zero Net Energy and decarbonized future.
- **Schools need to build CTE facilities and "shop classes"** to teach to the future and provide students pathways to skilled careers in decarbonized and energy efficient construction and manufacturing industries. The bond is expected to include specific set asides for CTE facilities.

BILL:

AB 247 (Muratsuchi) Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Acts of 2024.

POSITION:

SUPPORT