

Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act

18A:7G-1 Short title.

1. Sections 1 through 30 and 57 through 71 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), sections 14 through 17 of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.18A:7G-45 through C.18A:7G-48), and sections 8 through 11 of P.L.2008, c.39 (C.18A:7G-14.1 et al.) shall be known and may be cited as the "Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act."

L.2000, c.72, s.1; amended 2008, c.39, s.1.

18A:7G-2 Findings, declarations relative to construction, financing of public school facilities.

2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. The Constitution of the State of New Jersey requires the Legislature to provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools and this legislative responsibility includes ensuring that students are educated in physical facilities that are safe, healthy, and conducive to learning.

b. Inadequacies in the quality, utility, and safety of educational facilities have arisen among local school districts of this State. In order to ensure that the Legislature's constitutional responsibility for adequate educational facilities is met, there is a need to establish an efficiency standard for educational facilities at the elementary, middle, and secondary school levels which will assure that the core curriculum content standards are taught to all of the children of the State in a setting which facilitates and promotes that learning.

c. Educational infrastructure inadequacies are greatest in the SDA districts where maintenance has been deferred and new construction has not been initiated due to concerns about cost. To remedy the facilities inadequacies of the SDA districts, the State must promptly engage in a facilities needs assessment and fund the entire cost of repairing, renovating, and constructing the new school facilities determined by the Commissioner of Education to be required to meet the school facilities efficiency standards in the SDA districts. In other districts, the State must also identify need in view of anticipated growth in school population, and must contribute to the cost of the renovation and construction of new facilities to ensure the provision of a thorough and efficient education in those districts.

d. While providing that the educational infrastructure meets the requirements of a thorough and efficient education, the State must also protect the interests of taxpayers who will bear the burden of this obligation. Design of school facilities should incorporate maximum operating efficiencies and new technologies to advance the energy efficiency of school facilities and the efficiency of other school building systems, construction should be achieved in as efficient a manner as possible, and a mechanism to

assure proper maintenance of new facilities should be established and implemented, in order to reduce the overall cost of the program and to preserve this infrastructure investment.

L.2000, c.72, s.2; amended 2007, c.260, s.38.

18A:7G-3 Definitions relative to construction, financing of public school facilities.

3. As used in sections 1 through 30 and 57 through 71 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) and sections 14 through 17 of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.18A:7G-45 through C.18A:7G-48), unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

"Area cost allowance" means \$138 per square foot for the school year 2000-2001 and shall be inflated by an appropriate cost index for the 2001-2002 school year. For the 2002-2003 school year and subsequent school years, the area cost allowance shall be established by the commissioner pursuant to subsection h. of section 4 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-4). The area cost allowance used in determining preliminary eligible costs of school facilities projects shall be that of the year of application for approval of the project;

"Capital maintenance project" means a school facilities project intended to extend the useful life of a school facility, including up-grades and replacements of building systems, such as structure, enclosure, mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems;

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education;

"Core curriculum content standards" means the standards established pursuant to the provisions of subsection a. of section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46);

"Cost index" means the average annual increase, expressed as a decimal, in actual construction cost factors for the New York City and Philadelphia areas during the second fiscal year preceding the budget year as determined pursuant to regulations promulgated by the development authority pursuant to section 26 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-26);

"Debt service" means and includes payments of principal and interest upon school bonds issued to finance the acquisition of school sites and the purchase or construction of school facilities, additions to school facilities, or the reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, modernization, renovation or repair of school facilities, including furnishings, equipment, architect fees and the costs of issuance of such obligations and shall include payments of principal and interest upon school bonds heretofore issued to fund or refund such obligations, and upon municipal bonds and other obligations which the commissioner approves as having been issued for such purposes. Debt service pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1978, c.74 (C.18A:58-33.22 et seq.), P.L.1971, c.10 (C.18A:58-33.6 et seq.) and P.L.1968, c.177 (C.18A:58-33.2 et seq.) is excluded;

"Demonstration project" means a school facilities project selected by the State Treasurer for construction by a redevelopment entity pursuant to section 6 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-6);

"Development authority" means the New Jersey Schools Development Authority established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-237);

"District" means a local or regional school district established pursuant to chapter 8 or chapter 13 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, a county special services school district established pursuant to article 8 of chapter 46 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, a county vocational school district established pursuant to article 3 of chapter 54 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and a district under full State intervention pursuant to P.L.1987, c.399 (C.18A:7A-34 et al.);

"District aid percentage" means the number expressed as a percentage derived from dividing the district's equalization aid calculated pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-53) as of the date of the commissioner's determination of preliminary eligible costs by the district's adequacy budget calculated pursuant to section 9 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-51) as of the date of the commissioner's determination of preliminary eligible costs;

"Excess costs" means the additional costs, if any, which shall be borne by the district, of a school facilities project which result from design factors that are not required to meet the facilities efficiency standards and not approved pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection g. of section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5) or are not authorized as community design features included in final eligible costs pursuant to subsection c. of section 6 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-6);

"Facilities efficiency standards" means the standards developed by the commissioner pursuant to subsection h. of section 4 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-4);

"Final eligible costs" means for school facilities projects to be constructed by the development authority, the final eligible costs of the school facilities project as determined by the commissioner, in consultation with the development authority, pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5); for demonstration projects, the final eligible costs of the project as determined by the commissioner and reviewed by the development authority which may include the cost of community design features determined by the commissioner to be an integral part of the school facility and which do not exceed the facilities efficiency standards, and which were reviewed by the development authority and approved by the State Treasurer pursuant to section 6 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-6); and for districts other than SDA districts, final eligible costs as determined pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection h. of section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5);

"Financing authority" means the New Jersey Economic Development Authority established pursuant to P.L.1974, c.80 (C.34:1B-1 et seq.);

"FTE" means a full-time equivalent student which shall be calculated as follows: each student in grades 1 through 12 shall be counted at 100% of the actual count of students, in the case of districts which operate a half-day kindergarten program each kindergarten student shall be counted at 50% of the actual count of kindergarten students, in the case of districts which operate a full-day kindergarten program or which currently operate a half-day kindergarten program but propose to build facilities to house a full-day kindergarten program each kindergarten student shall be counted at 100% of the actual count of kindergarten students, and each preschool student who is enrolled in a full-day preschool program pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-54) shall be counted at 100% of the actual count of preschool students. In addition, each preschool disabled child who is entitled to receive a full-time program pursuant to N.J.S.18A:46-6 shall be counted at 100% of the actual count of these students in the district;

"Functional capacity" means the number of students that can be housed in a building in order to have sufficient space for it to be educationally adequate for the delivery of programs and services necessary for student achievement of the core curriculum content standards. Functional capacity is determined by dividing the existing gross square footage of a school building by the minimum area allowance per FTE student pursuant to subsection b. of section 8 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-8) for the grade level students contained therein. The difference between the projected enrollment determined pursuant to subsection a. of section 8 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-8) and the functional capacity is the unhoused students that are the basis upon which the additional costs of space to provide educationally adequate facilities for the entire projected enrollment are determined. The existing gross square footage for the purposes of defining functional capacity is exclusive of existing spaces that are not contained in the facilities efficiency standards but which are used to deliver programs and services aligned to the core curriculum content standards, used to provide support services directly to students, or other existing spaces that the district can demonstrate would be structurally or fiscally impractical to convert to other uses contained in the facilities efficiency standards;

"Lease purchase payment" means and includes payment of principal and interest for lease purchase agreements in excess of five years approved pursuant to subsection (f) of N.J.S.18A:20-4.2 prior to the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) to finance the purchase or construction of school facilities, additions to school facilities, or the reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, modernization, renovation or repair of school facilities, including furnishings, equipment, architect fees and issuance costs. Approved lease purchase agreements in excess of five years shall be accorded the same accounting treatment as school bonds;

"Local share" means, in the case of a school facilities project to be constructed by the development authority, the total costs less the State share as determined pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5); in the case of a demonstration project, the total costs less the State share as determined pursuant to sections 5 and 6 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5 and C.18A:7G-6); and in the case of a school facilities project which shall be financed pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15), the total costs less

the State share as determined pursuant to that section;

"Local unit" means a county, municipality, board of education or any other political subdivision or instrumentality authorized to construct, operate and maintain a school facilities project and to borrow money for those purposes pursuant to law;

"Local unit obligations" means bonds, notes, refunding bonds, refunding notes, lease obligations and all other obligations of a local unit which are issued or entered into for the purpose of paying for all or a portion of the costs of a school facilities project, including moneys payable to the development authority;

"Long-range facilities plan" means the plan required to be submitted to the commissioner by a district pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-4);

"Maintenance" means expenditures which are approved for repairs and replacements for the purpose of keeping a school facility open and safe for use or in its original condition, including repairs and replacements to a school facility's heating, lighting, ventilation, security and other fixtures to keep the facility or fixtures in effective working condition. Maintenance shall not include capital maintenance or contracted custodial or janitorial services, expenditures for the cleaning of a school facility or its fixtures, the care and upkeep of grounds or parking lots, and the cleaning of, or repairs and replacements to, movable furnishings or equipment, or other expenditures which are not required to maintain the original condition over the school facility's useful life. Approved maintenance expenditures shall be as determined by the commissioner pursuant to regulations to be adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 26 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-26);

"Other allowable costs" means the costs of temporary facilities, site development, acquisition of land or other real property interests necessary to effectuate the school facilities project, fees for the services of design professionals, including architects, engineers, construction managers and other design professionals, legal fees, financing costs and the administrative costs of the development authority and the financing authority or the district incurred in connection with the school facilities project;

"Other facilities" means athletic stadiums, swimming pools, any associated structures or related equipment tied to such facilities including, but not limited to, grandstands and night field lights, greenhouses, facilities used for non-instructional or non-educational purposes, and any structure, building, or facility used solely for school administration;

"Preliminary eligible costs" means the initial eligible costs of a school facilities project as calculated pursuant to the formulas set forth in section 7 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-7) or as otherwise provided pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5) and which shall be deemed to include the costs of construction and other allowable costs;

"Redevelopment entity" means a redevelopment entity authorized by a municipal governing body to implement plans and carry out redevelopment projects in the municipality pursuant to the "Local Redevelopment and Housing Law," P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-1 et al.);

"School bonds" means, in the case of a school facilities project which is to be constructed by the development authority, a redevelopment entity, or a district under section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15), bonds, notes or other obligations issued by a district to finance the local share; and, in the case of a school facilities project which is not to be constructed by the development authority or a redevelopment entity, or financed under section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15), bonds, notes or other obligations issued by a district to finance the total costs;

"School enrollment" means the number of FTE students other than evening school students, including post-graduate students and post-secondary vocational students, who, on the last school day prior to October 16 of the current school year, are recorded in the registers of the school;

"School facility" means and includes any structure, building or facility used wholly or in part for educational purposes by a district and facilities that physically support such structures, buildings and facilities, such as district wastewater treatment facilities, power generating facilities, and steam generating facilities, but shall exclude other facilities;

"School facilities project" means the planning, acquisition, demolition, construction, improvement, alteration, modernization, renovation, reconstruction or capital maintenance of all or any part of a school facility or of any other personal property necessary for, or ancillary to, any school facility, and shall include fixtures, furnishings and equipment, and shall also include, but is not limited to, site acquisition, site development, the services of design professionals, such as engineers and architects, construction management, legal services, financing costs and administrative costs and expenses incurred in connection with the project;

"SDA district" is a district that received education opportunity aid or preschool expansion aid in the 2007-2008 school year;

"Special education services pupil" means a pupil receiving specific services pursuant to chapter 46 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes;

"State aid" means State municipal aid and State school aid;

"State debt service aid" means for school bonds issued for school facilities projects approved by the commissioner after the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) of districts which elect not to have a redevelopment entity construct the project or which elect not to finance the project under section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15), the amount of State aid determined pursuant to section 9 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-9); and for school bonds or certificates of participation issued for school facilities projects

approved by the commissioner prior to the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) the amount of State aid determined pursuant to section 10 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-10);

"State municipal aid" means business personal property tax replacement revenues, State urban aid and State revenue sharing, as these terms are defined in section 2 of P.L.1976, c.38 (C.40A:3-3), or other similar forms of State aid payable to the local unit and to the extent permitted by federal law, federal moneys appropriated or apportioned to the municipality or county by the State;

"State school aid" means the funds made available to school districts pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-53);

"State share" means the State's proportionate share of the final eligible costs of a school facilities project to be constructed by the development authority as determined pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5); in the case of a demonstration project, the State's proportionate share of the final eligible costs of the project as determined pursuant to sections 5 and 6 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5 and C.18A:7G-6); and in the case of a school facilities project to be financed pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15), the State share as determined pursuant to that section;

"Total costs" means, in the case of a school facilities project which is to be constructed by the development authority or a redevelopment entity or financed pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15), the final eligible costs plus excess costs if any; and in the case of a school facilities project which is not to be constructed by the development authority or a redevelopment entity or financed pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15), the total cost of the project as determined by the district.

L.2000, c.72, s.3; amended 2005, c.235, s.31; 2006, c.47, s.90; 2007, c.137, s.18; 2007, c.260, s.39.

18A:7G-4 Long-range facilities plan; facilities efficiency standards; time lines.

4. a. By December 15, 2000 and by October 1, 2005, each district shall prepare and submit to the commissioner a long-range facilities plan that details the district's school facilities needs and the district's plan to address those needs for the ensuing five years. Following the approval of the 2005 long-range facilities plan, each district shall amend its long-range facilities plan at least once every five years to update enrollment projections, building capacities, and health and safety conditions. The long-range facilities plan shall incorporate the facilities efficiency standards and shall be filed with the commissioner for approval in accordance with those standards. For those Abbott districts that have submitted long-range facilities plans to the commissioner prior to the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), this subsection shall not be read to require an additional filing by October 1, 2000.

b. Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, an application for a school facilities project pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5) shall not be approved unless the district has filed a long-range facilities plan that is consistent with the application and the plan has been approved by the commissioner; except that prior to October 1, 2000, the commissioner may approve an application if the project is necessary to protect the health or safety of occupants of the school facility, or is related to required early childhood education programs, or is related to a school facility in which the functional capacity is less than 90% of the facilities efficiency standards based on current school enrollment, or the district received bids on the school facilities project prior to the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) and the district demonstrates that further delay will negatively affect the cost of the project.

c. An amendment to a long-range facilities plan may be submitted at any time to the commissioner for review and determination on the approval or disapproval of the amendment.

d. Each long-range facilities plan shall include a cohort survival methodology or other methodology approved by the commissioner, accompanied by a certification by a qualified demographer retained by the district that serves as the basis for identifying the capacity and program needs detailed in the long-range facilities plan.

e. The long-range facilities plan shall include an educational adequacy inventory of all existing school facilities in the district including the adequacy of school facilities to educate within the district the existing and projected number of pupils with disabilities, the identification of all deficiencies in the district's current inventory of school facilities, which includes the identification of those deficiencies that involve emergent health and safety concerns, and the district's proposed plan for future construction and renovation. The long-range facilities plan submissions shall conform to the guidelines, criteria and format prescribed by the commissioner.

f. Each district shall determine the number of "unhoused students" for the ensuing five-year period calculated pursuant to the provisions of section 8 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-8).

g. Each district shall submit the long-range facilities plan to the planning board of the municipality or municipalities in which the district is situate for the planning board's review and findings and the incorporation of the plan's goals and objectives into the municipal master plan adopted by the municipality pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-28).

h. The commissioner shall develop, for the March 2002 Report on the Cost of Providing a Thorough and Efficient Education issued by the commissioner pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-4), facilities efficiency standards for elementary, middle, and high schools consistent with the core curriculum school delivery assumptions in the report and sufficient for the achievement of the core curriculum content standards,

including the provision of required programs in Abbott districts and early childhood education programs in the districts in which these programs are required by the State. The area allowances per FTE student in each class of the district shall be derived from these facilities efficiency standards. The commissioner shall revise the facilities efficiency standards and the area cost allowance in accordance with such schedule as the commissioner deems necessary. The commissioner shall publish the revised facilities efficiency standards and the area cost allowance in the New Jersey Register and, within a reasonable period of time after 30 days following publication, shall file the revised facilities efficiency standards and the area cost allowance with the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the New Jersey Register and those standards shall become effective immediately upon filing. During the 30-day period the commissioner shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed facilities efficiency standards and the area cost allowance.

The facilities efficiency standards developed by the commissioner shall not be construction design standards but rather shall represent the instructional spaces, specialized instructional areas, and administrative spaces that are determined by the commissioner to be educationally adequate to support the achievement of the core curriculum content standards including the provision of required programs in Abbott districts and early childhood education programs in the districts in which these programs are required by the State. A district may design, at its discretion, the educational and other spaces to be included within the school facilities project. The design of the project may eliminate spaces in the facilities efficiency standards, include spaces not in the facilities efficiency standards, or size spaces differently than in the facilities efficiency standards upon a demonstration of the adequacy of the school facilities project to deliver the core curriculum content standards pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection g. of section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5).

Within a reasonable period of time after the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), the commissioner shall publish the facilities efficiency standards developed for the 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003 school years in the New Jersey Register. Within a reasonable period of time after 30 days after publication in the New Jersey Register, the commissioner shall file the facilities efficiency standards with the Office of Administrative Law and those standards shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law. During the 30-day period the commissioner shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed facilities efficiency standards.

i. Within 90 days of the commissioner's receipt of a long-range facilities plan for review, the commissioner shall determine whether the plan is fully and accurately completed and whether all information necessary for a decision on the plan has been filed by the district. If the commissioner determines that the plan is complete, the commissioner shall promptly notify the district in writing and shall have 60 days from the date of that notification to determine whether to approve the plan or not. If the commissioner determines that the plan is not complete, the commissioner shall notify the district in writing. The district shall provide to the commissioner whatever information

the commissioner determines is necessary to make the plan accurate and complete. The district shall submit that information to the commissioner, and the commissioner shall have 60 days from the date of receipt of accurate and complete information to determine whether to approve the plan or not.

j. Notwithstanding any provision in subsection i. of this section, if at any time the number of long-range facilities plans filed by school districts with the commissioner and pending review exceeds 20% of the number of school districts in New Jersey, the commissioner may extend by 60 days the deadline for reviewing each plan pending at that time.

k. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.260).

l. By July 1, 2001, the commissioner shall provide the Legislature with recommendations to address the circumstances of districts which are contiguous with two or more Abbott districts. The recommendations shall address the issues of the financing of school facilities projects and the funding of the educational and other programs required within these districts as a result of their unique demographic situation.

m. By July 1, 2001, the commissioner shall study the Safe Schools Design Guidelines, prepared by the Florida Center for Community Design and Research, which address the issues of school safety and security through the design of school facilities. Based upon the commissioner's study, the commissioner shall issue recommendations to districts on the appropriateness of including the Safe Schools Design Guidelines in the design and construction of school facilities projects.

L.2000, c.72, s.4; amended 2007, c.137, s.19; 2007, c.260, s.40.

18A:7G-5 Undertaking and financing of school facilities in certain districts.

5. a. The development authority shall undertake and the financing authority shall finance the school facilities projects of SDA districts.

b. In the case of a district other than an SDA district, State support for the project shall be determined pursuant to section 9 or section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-9 or C.18A:7G-15), as applicable.

c. Notwithstanding any provision of N.J.S.18A:18A-16 to the contrary, the procedures for obtaining approval of a school facilities project shall be as set forth in this act; provided that any district whose school facilities project is not constructed by the development authority shall also be required to comply with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:18A-16.

d. (1) Any district seeking to initiate a school facilities project shall apply to the commissioner for approval of the project. The application may include, but not be limited to: a description of the school facilities project; a schematic drawing of the project

or, at the option of the district, preliminary plans and specifications; a delineation and description of each of the functional components of the project; educational specifications detailing the programmatic needs of each proposed space; the number of unhoused students to be housed in the project; the area allowances per FTE student as calculated pursuant to section 8 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-8); and the estimated cost to complete the project as determined by the district.

(2) In the case of an SDA district school facilities project, based upon its educational priority ranking and the Statewide strategic plan established pursuant to subsection m. of this section, the commissioner may authorize the development authority to undertake preconstruction activities which may include, but need not be limited to, site identification, investigation, and acquisition, feasibility studies, land-related design work, design work, site remediation, demolition, and acquisition of temporary facilities. Upon receipt of the authorization, the development authority may initiate the preconstruction activities required to prepare the application for commissioner approval of the school facilities project.

e. The commissioner shall review each proposed school facilities project to determine whether it is consistent with the district's long-range facilities plan and whether it complies with the facilities efficiency standards and the area allowances per FTE student derived from those standards; and in the case of an SDA district the commissioner shall also review the project's educational priority ranking and the Statewide strategic plan developed pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection m. of this section; and in the case of a district other than an SDA district the commissioner shall also review the project's priority pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection m. of this section. The commissioner shall make a decision on a district's application within 90 days from the date he determines that the application is fully and accurately completed and that all information necessary for a decision has been filed by the district, or from the date of the last revision made by the district. If the commissioner is not able to make a decision within 90 days, he shall notify the district in writing explaining the reason for the delay and indicating the date on which a decision on the project will be made, provided that the date shall not be later than 60 days from the expiration of the original 90 days set forth in this subsection. If the decision is not made by the subsequent date indicated by the commissioner, then the project shall be deemed approved and the preliminary eligible costs for new construction shall be calculated by using the proposed square footage of the building as the approved area for unhoused students.

f. If the commissioner determines that the school facilities project complies with the facilities efficiency standards and the district's long-range facilities plan and does not exceed the area allowance per FTE student derived from those standards, the commissioner shall calculate the preliminary eligible costs of the project pursuant to the formulas set forth in section 7 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-7); except that (1) in the case of a county special services school district or a county vocational school district, the commissioner shall calculate the preliminary eligible costs to equal the amount determined by the board of school estimate and approved by the board of chosen freeholders pursuant to section 14 of P.L.1971, c.271 (C.18A:46-42) or N.J.S.18A:54-31

as appropriate, and (2) in the case of an SDA district, the commissioner shall calculate the preliminary eligible costs to equal the estimated cost as determined by the development authority.

g. If the commissioner determines that the school facilities project is inconsistent with the facilities efficiency standards or exceeds the area allowances per FTE student derived from those standards, the commissioner shall notify the district.

(1) The commissioner shall approve area allowances in excess of the area allowances per FTE student derived from the facilities efficiency standards if the board of education or State district superintendent, as appropriate, demonstrates that school facilities needs related to required programs cannot be addressed within the facilities efficiency standards and that all other proposed spaces are consistent with those standards. The commissioner shall approve area allowances in excess of the area allowances per FTE student derived from the facilities efficiency standards if the additional area allowances are necessary to accommodate centralized facilities to be shared among two or more school buildings within the district and the centralized facilities represent a more cost effective alternative.

(2) The commissioner may waive a facilities efficiency standard if the board of education or State district superintendent, as appropriate, demonstrates to the commissioner's satisfaction that the waiver will not adversely affect the educational adequacy of the school facility, including the ability to deliver the programs and services necessary to enable all students to achieve the core curriculum content standards.

(3) To house the district's central administration, a district may request an adjustment to the approved areas for unhoused students of 2.17 square feet for each FTE student in the projected total district school enrollment if the proposed administrative offices will be housed in a school facility and the district demonstrates either that the existing central administrative offices are obsolete or that it is more practical to convert those offices to instructional space. To the extent that existing administrative space will continue to be used for administrative purposes, the space shall be included in the formulas set forth in section 7 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-7).

If the commissioner approves excess facilities efficiency standards or additional area allowances pursuant to paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection, the commissioner shall calculate the preliminary eligible costs based upon the additional area allowances or excess facilities efficiency standards pursuant to the formulas set forth in section 7 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-7). In the event that the commissioner does not approve the excess facilities efficiency standards or additional area allowances, the district may either: modify its submission so that the school facilities project meets the facilities efficiency standards; or pay for the excess costs.

(4) The commissioner shall approve spaces in excess of, or inconsistent with, the facilities efficiency standards, hereinafter referred to as nonconforming spaces, upon a determination by the district that the spaces are necessary to comply with State or federal

law concerning individuals with disabilities, including that the spaces are necessary to provide in-district programs and services for current disabled pupils who are being served in out-of-district placements or in-district programs and services for the projected disabled pupil population. A district may apply for additional State aid for nonconforming spaces that will permit pupils with disabilities to be educated to the greatest extent possible in the same buildings or classes with their nondisabled peers. The nonconforming spaces may: (a) allow for the return of pupils with disabilities from private facilities; (b) permit the retention of pupils with disabilities who would otherwise be placed in private facilities; (c) provide space for regional programs in a host school building that houses both disabled and nondisabled pupils; and (d) provide space for the coordination of regional programs by a county special services school district, educational services commission, jointure commission, or other agency authorized by law to provide regional educational services in a school building that houses both disabled and nondisabled pupils. A district's State support ratio shall be adjusted to equal the lesser of the sum of its district aid percentage as defined in section 3 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-3) plus 0.25, or 100% for any nonconforming spaces approved by the commissioner pursuant to this paragraph.

h. Upon approval of a school facilities project and determination of the preliminary eligible costs:

(1) In the case of a district other than an SDA district, the commissioner shall notify the district whether the school facilities project is approved and, if so approved, the preliminary eligible costs and the excess costs, if any. Following the determination of preliminary eligible costs and the notification of project approval, the district may appeal to the commissioner for an increase in those costs if the detailed plans and specifications completed by a design professional for the school facilities project indicate that the cost of constructing that portion of the project which is consistent with the facilities efficiency standards and does not exceed the area allowances per FTE student exceeds the preliminary eligible costs as determined by the commissioner for the project by 10% or more. The district shall file its appeal within 30 days of the preparation of the plans and specifications. If the district chooses not to file an appeal, then the final eligible costs shall equal the preliminary eligible costs.

The appeal shall outline the reasons why the preliminary eligible costs calculated for the project are inadequate and estimate the amount of the adjustment which needs to be made to the preliminary eligible costs. The commissioner shall forward the appeal information to the development authority for its review and recommendation. If the additional costs are the result of factors that are within the control of the district or are the result of design factors that are not required to meet the facilities efficiency standards, the development authority shall recommend to the commissioner that the preliminary eligible costs be accepted as the final eligible costs. If the development authority determines the additional costs are not within the control of the district or are the result of design factors required to meet the facilities efficiency standards, the development authority shall recommend to the commissioner a final eligible cost based on its experience for districts with similar characteristics, provided that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the

commissioner shall not approve an adjustment to the preliminary eligible costs which exceeds 10% of the preliminary eligible costs. The commissioner shall make a determination on the appeal within 30 days of its receipt. If the commissioner does not approve an adjustment to the school facilities project's preliminary eligible costs, the commissioner shall issue his findings in writing on the reasons for the denial and on why the preliminary eligible costs as originally calculated are sufficient.

(2) In the case of an SDA district, the commissioner shall promptly prepare and submit to the development authority a preliminary project report which shall consist, at a minimum, of the following information: a complete description of the school facilities project; the actual location of the project; the total square footage of the project together with a breakdown of total square footage by functional component; the preliminary eligible costs of the project; the project's priority ranking determined pursuant to subsection m. of this section; any other factors to be considered by the development authority in undertaking the project; and the name and address of the person from the district to contact in regard to the project.

i. Upon receipt by the development authority of the preliminary project report, the development authority, upon consultation with the district, shall prepare detailed plans and specifications and schedules which contain the development authority's estimated cost and schedule to complete the school facilities project. The development authority shall transmit to the commissioner its recommendations in regard to the project which shall, at a minimum, contain the detailed plans and specifications; whether the school facilities project can be completed within the preliminary eligible costs; and any other factors which the development authority determines should be considered by the commissioner.

(1) In the event that the development authority determines that the school facilities project can be completed within the preliminary eligible costs: the final eligible costs shall be deemed to equal the preliminary eligible costs; the commissioner shall be deemed to have given final approval to the project; and the preliminary project report shall be deemed to be the final project report delivered to the development authority pursuant to subsection j. of this section.

(2) In the event that the development authority determines that the school facilities project cannot be completed within the preliminary eligible costs, prior to the submission of its recommendations to the commissioner, the development authority shall, in consultation with the district and the commissioner, determine whether changes can be made in the project which will result in a reduction in costs while at the same time meeting the facilities efficiency standards approved by the commissioner.

(a) If the development authority determines that changes in the school facilities project are possible so that the project can be accomplished within the scope of the preliminary eligible costs while still meeting the facilities efficiency standards, the development authority shall so advise the commissioner, whereupon the commissioner shall: calculate the final eligible costs to equal the preliminary eligible costs; give final

approval to the project with the changes noted; and issue a final project report to the development authority pursuant to subsection j. of this section.

(b) If the development authority determines that it is not possible to make changes in the school facilities project so that it can be completed within the preliminary eligible costs either because the additional costs are the result of factors outside the control of the district or the additional costs are required to meet the facilities efficiency standards, the development authority shall recommend to the commissioner that the preliminary eligible costs be increased accordingly, whereupon the commissioner shall: calculate the final eligible costs to equal the sum of the preliminary eligible costs plus the increase recommended by the development authority; give final approval to the project; and issue a final project report to the development authority pursuant to subsection j. of this section.

(c) If the additional costs are the result of factors that are within the control of the district or are the result of design factors that are not required to meet the facilities efficiency standards or approved pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection g. of this section, the development authority shall recommend to the commissioner that the preliminary eligible costs be accepted, whereupon the commissioner shall: calculate the final eligible costs to equal the preliminary eligible costs and specify the excess costs which are to be borne by the district; give final approval to the school facilities project; and issue a final project report to the development authority pursuant to subsection j. of this section; provided that the commissioner may approve final eligible costs which are in excess of the preliminary eligible costs if, in his judgment, the action is necessary to meet the educational needs of the district.

(d) For a school facilities project undertaken by the development authority, the development authority shall be responsible for any costs of construction, but only from the proceeds of bonds issued by the financing authority pursuant to P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) and P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.), which exceed the amount originally projected by the development authority and approved for financing by the development authority, provided that the excess is the result of an underestimate of labor or materials costs by the development authority. After receipt by the development authority of the final project report, the district shall be responsible only for the costs associated with changes, if any, made at the request of the district to the scope of the school facilities project.

j. The development authority shall not commence the construction of a school facilities project unless the commissioner transmits to the development authority a final project report and the district complies with the approval requirements for the local share, if any, pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-11). The final project report shall contain all of the information contained in the preliminary project report and, in addition, shall contain: the final eligible costs; the excess costs, if any; the total costs which equals the final eligible costs plus excess costs, if any; the State share; and the local share.

k. For the SDA districts, the State share shall be 100% of the final eligible costs. Except as otherwise provided pursuant to section 9 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-9) , for all other districts, the State share shall be an amount equal to the district aid percentage; except that the State share shall not be less than 40% of the final eligible costs.

If any district which is included in district factor group A or B, other than an SDA district, is having difficulty financing the local share of a school facilities project, the district may apply to the commissioner to receive 100% State support for the project and the commissioner may request the approval of the Legislature to increase the State share of the project to 100%.

l. The local share for school facilities projects constructed by the authority or a redevelopment entity shall equal the final eligible costs plus any excess costs less the State share.

m. (1) Within 90 days of the effective date of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.), the commissioner shall develop an educational facilities needs assessment for each SDA district. The assessment shall be updated periodically by the commissioner in accordance with the schedule the commissioner deems appropriate for the district; except that each assessment shall at a minimum be updated within five years of the development of the district's most recent prior educational facilities needs assessment. The assessment shall be transmitted to the development authority to be used to initiate the planning activities required prior to the establishment of the educational priority ranking of school facilities projects pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) Following the approval of an SDA district's long-range facilities plan or of an amendment to that plan, but prior to authorization of preconstruction activities for a school facilities project included in the plan or amendment, the commissioner shall establish, in consultation with the SDA district, an educational priority ranking of all school facilities projects in the SDA district based upon the commissioner's determination of critical need in accordance with priority project categories developed by the commissioner. The priority project categories shall include, but not be limited to, health and safety, overcrowding in the early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school grade levels, spaces necessary to provide in-district programs and services for current disabled students who are being served in out-of-district placements or in-district programs and services for the projected disabled student population, rehabilitation, and educational adequacy.

(3) Upon the commissioner's determination of the educational priority ranking of school facilities projects in SDA districts pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the development authority, in consultation with the commissioner, the SDA districts, and the governing bodies of the municipalities in which the SDA districts are situate, shall establish a Statewide strategic plan to be used in the sequencing of SDA district school facilities projects based upon the projects' educational priority rankings and issues which impact the development authority's ability to complete the projects including, but not limited to, the construction schedule and other appropriate factors. The development authority shall revise the Statewide strategic plan and the sequencing of SDA district

school facilities projects in accordance with that plan no less than once every five years.

Any amendment to an SDA district's long-range facilities plan that is submitted to the commissioner in the period between the five-year updates of the long-range facilities plan shall be considered by the development authority, in consultation with the commissioner, for incorporation into the Statewide strategic plan. In making a determination on whether or not to amend the Statewide strategic plan, the development authority shall consider the cost of the amendment, the impact of the amendment upon the school development plans for other districts, and other appropriate factors.

(4) In the case of a district other than an SDA district, the commissioner shall establish a priority process for the financing of school facilities projects based upon the commissioner's determination of critical need in accordance with priority project categories developed by the commissioner. The priority project categories shall include, but not be limited to, health and safety, overcrowding in the elementary, middle, and high school grade levels, spaces necessary to provide in-district programs and services for current disabled students who are being served in out-of-district placements or in-district programs and services for the projected disabled student population, and full-day kindergarten facilities in the case of school districts required to provide full-day preschool pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-54).

n. The provisions of the "Public School Contracts Law," N.J.S.18A:18A-1 et seq., shall be applicable to any school facilities project constructed by a district but shall not be applicable to projects constructed by the development authority or a redevelopment entity pursuant to the provisions of this act.

o. In the case of a school facilities project of a district other than an SDA district, any proceeds of school bonds issued by the district for the purpose of funding the project which remain unspent upon completion of the project shall be used by the district to reduce the outstanding principal amount of the school bonds.

p. Upon completion by the development authority of a school facilities project, if the cost of construction and completion of the project is less than the total costs, the district shall be entitled to receive a portion of the local share based on a pro rata share of the difference based on the ratio of the State share to the local share.

q. The development authority shall determine the cause of any costs of construction which exceed the amount originally projected by the development authority and approved for financing by the financing authority.

r. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.137).

s. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.137).

L.2000, c.72, s.5; amended 2005, c.235, s.32; 2006, c.47, s.91; 2007, c.137, s.20; 2007, c.260, s.41; 2008, c.39, s.2; 2009, c.185, s.1.

18A:7G-5.1 No construction of school within 1,000 feet of an existing entry, exit ramp of a highway; exceptions.

5. a. A school shall not be constructed within 1,000 feet of an existing entry or exit ramp of a highway unless, during the planning and design of the proposed school, the local board of education and, in the case of a school to be constructed by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the authority, or, in the case of a nonpublic school, the board thereof, determines that there is no feasible or prudent alternative. Prior to making this determination, the local board of education and, in the case of a school to be constructed by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the authority, or, in the case of a nonpublic school, the board thereof, shall notify the members of the Legislature representing the district in which the school is proposed to be constructed and the Departments of Transportation and Education that construction of a school is being considered within 1,000 feet of the entry or exit ramp of a highway. The legislators shall be afforded the opportunity to submit comments to the local board of education, and, in the case of a school being constructed by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the authority, or the board of the nonpublic school, as the case may be, and the Departments of Transportation and Education. If the determination is subsequently made that there is no feasible or prudent alternative, the Department of Transportation shall be so notified and the Department of Transportation shall review the proposed location of the school, identify potential safety hazards, and make recommendations to abate or minimize such hazards consistent with the study required pursuant to section 7 of this act, or if the study is not completed, consistent with such preliminary findings and recommendations which may exist. The Department of Transportation shall complete its review within 90 days of receiving notification of the determination, and shall report its findings to the local board of education and, in the case of a school being constructed by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, to the authority, or to the board of the nonpublic school, the Department of Education and the members of the Legislature representing the legislative district in which the school is proposed to be constructed.

b. As a condition of granting approval of a proposed school facilities project, the Department of Education shall require a local board of education to include with a board's application for approval: (1) a certification that the proposed school is not within 1,000 feet of an entry or exit ramp of a highway; or (2) a response to each item of advice to mitigate safety hazards that the Department of Transportation has issued based on the Department of Transportation's review of the school project.

L.2007, c.308, s.5.

18A:7G-6 Applicability of C.18A:7G-5 to demonstration projects; exceptions.

6. The provisions of section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5) shall pertain to school facilities projects designated to be demonstration projects except as otherwise provided in this section.

a. For the initial three full fiscal years following the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), the State Treasurer may designate up to six school facilities projects which the State Treasurer determines to be in the best interests of the State and of the districts to be demonstration projects pursuant to the provisions of this section. As used in this section, "authority" means the New Jersey Economic Development Authority which was designated as both the financing and construction agency for school facilities projects prior to the enactment of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.); except that in the event that any actions required to be taken pursuant to this section by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority or its subsidiary, the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation, have not been taken prior to the effective date of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.), authority shall mean the New Jersey Schools Development Authority.

b. A district and municipality may apply to the authority for the designation of a school facilities project contained in a long-range facilities plan submitted to the commissioner pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-4) to be a demonstration project to provide for the coordination of local economic development, redevelopment or community development with a school facilities project. The application shall be accompanied by resolutions requesting the designation adopted by the board of education of the district and the governing body of the municipality. The application shall set forth:

(1) a plan for carrying out the redevelopment project as a whole, including the construction of the school facilities project;

(2) the name of the redevelopment entity to undertake the project under the "Local Redevelopment and Housing Law," P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-1 et al.);

(3) a description of how the project fits into a redevelopment plan adopted or to be adopted by the municipal governing body pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-7); and

(4) a description of the community design features to be included in the school facilities project.

c. The authority shall evaluate the request to determine whether the school facilities project is suitable for designation as a demonstration project and whether the proposed redevelopment entity is suitable for designation as the entity to construct the demonstration project based upon consideration of the following factors:

(1) whether the demonstration project furthers definite local objectives as to appropriate land uses, density of population, and improved traffic and public transportation, public utilities, recreational and community facilities and other public improvements;

- (2) whether the demonstration project provides significant social and economic benefits to the municipality, its neighborhoods and residents;
- (3) whether the development of the school facilities project is consistent with the local development plan;
- (4) the extent to which the school facilities project contains community design features which can be used by the community;
- (5) whether the redevelopment entity has the current capacity to construct the demonstration project;
- (6) whether the redevelopment entity has the appropriate prior experience in developing similar types of projects; and
- (7) whether there exist donations from private entities for the purpose of the demonstration project.

d. The authority's review of the proposed school facilities project for designation as a demonstration project under this section shall commence upon approval by the commissioner of the school facilities project pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5). Upon approval by the commissioner of the school facilities project, and recommendation by the authority that the school facilities project be a demonstration project, the recommendation of the authority shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer who shall determine whether the school facilities project should be designated as a demonstration project. At the same time as the authority forwards its recommendation to the State Treasurer, the authority shall forward its recommendation to the Urban Coordinating Council for review pursuant to subsection i. of this section.

e. In addition to the requirements set forth in section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5), a demonstration project may request inclusion in the final eligible costs of the school facilities project, of all or any portion of the cost of any community design features including any area, rooms, equipment, recreational area or playground included in the school facilities project which are to be used in common by students of the district and by residents of the community, but there shall not be included in the final eligible costs any portion of the cost of any features which are not an integral part of the school building and grounds or exceed the facilities efficiency standards. The commissioner shall approve the inclusion of the community design features as part of the school facilities project if he finds that the inclusion of the community design features as part of the school facilities project would be conducive to the usefulness and success of the project for both the students of the district and the residents of the community. The commissioner may condition his approval upon the adoption by the district of policies suitable for assuring continuing community or educational access to the community design features.

f. The cost of the community design features approved by the commissioner shall be reviewed by the authority. The district shall submit the documentation required by the authority for the authority to make its determination. The authority shall, in its recommendation to the commissioner pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5), include its recommendation with respect to the cost of the community design features. The commissioner shall make the final determination with respect to the inclusion of the cost of community design features in the final eligible costs.

g. The authority shall provide funding for the State's share of the final eligible costs of a school facilities project to be constructed as part of a demonstration project pursuant to an agreement among the authority, the redevelopment entity and the district which shall, in addition to any other terms and conditions, set forth the terms for disbursement of the State share and provide for the monitoring of construction by the authority.

h. Upon completion of a demonstration project by a redevelopment entity, the district shall submit to the commissioner a plan to provide for the maintenance of the project and shall enter into a contract which provides for that maintenance.

i. The Urban Coordinating Council shall review the recommendations of the authority with respect to the demonstration projects and shall advise the authority, redevelopment entity and the district regarding the potential availability of funding for the demonstration project, including, but not limited to, sources of funds for acquisition, clearance, site remediation, and assemblage of land and the development, redevelopment, construction or rehabilitation of any structure or improvement included in the project.

j. Any district may consult with the Urban Coordinating Council with respect to the potential availability of funding for aspects of the school facilities project, including, but not limited to, sources of funds for acquisition, clearance, site remediation, and assemblage of land and the development, redevelopment, construction or rehabilitation of any structure or improvement included in the project.

L.2000, c.72, s.6; amended 2007, c.137, s.21.

18A:7G-7 Approval of preliminary eligible costs.

7. a. Preliminary eligible costs for construction of new school facilities and additions to school facilities, characterized by an increase in the square footage of the school facility, shall be approved only if necessary for reasons of unhoused students. Unhoused students are the number of students to be housed in a school building, but which cannot be housed in an existing building without additional space or a new building in order to maintain educational adequacy; or which are temporarily being housed in space that was originally designed or intended for instruction in specialized areas including, but not limited to, science, art, music, other hands-on learning experiences and comprehensive health and physical education. Unhoused students are calculated by subtracting the projected enrollment for a school building from its functional capacity.

Preliminary eligible costs for construction of new school facilities and additions to school facilities pursuant to this subsection shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Preliminary eligible costs} = \text{AU} \times \text{C}$$

where

AU is the approved area for unhoused students; and

C is the area cost allowance.

b. Preliminary eligible costs shall be approved for a rehabilitation project which means the reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, modernization, renovation or repair of school facilities but only for the purpose of keeping the school building functional for its original purpose or for new purposes that can be accomplished without increasing the gross square footage of the original facility.

Preliminary eligible costs for rehabilitation projects pursuant to this subsection shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Preliminary eligible costs} = \text{estimated actual costs.}$$

All school facilities shall be deemed suitable for rehabilitation unless a pre-construction evaluation undertaken by the district demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner that the structure might pose a risk to the safety of the occupants even after rehabilitation, or that rehabilitation is not cost-effective. Whenever a district determines to undertake new construction rather than a rehabilitation project, the district shall undertake a preconstruction evaluation to determine whether, because of health and safety or efficiency, it would be more feasible to replace rather than renovate the school facility. When the district demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner that replacement is more feasible, the district shall be authorized to have the school facility replaced rather than renovated and the preliminary eligible costs shall be determined pursuant to subsection a. of this section. The estimated costs of a rehabilitation project shall contain only those costs necessary for compliance with the Uniform Construction Code, health and safety, and educational adequacy as determined pursuant to the facilities efficiency standards and paragraph (1) of subsection g. of section 5 of this act.

c. When construction done in lieu of rehabilitation projects qualifies as new construction, the approved area for unhoused students shall be determined by the commissioner, with consideration of the existing school facilities in the district.

d. Preliminary eligible costs for new construction done in lieu of rehabilitation projects which does not meet the requirements of subsection b. of this section shall be determined in accordance with the methodology for aiding rehabilitation projects, with the preliminary eligible costs determined pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

e. Preliminary eligible costs for purchase of an existing facility to be used as a school facility shall be determined in accordance with the methodology for new construction, with preliminary eligible costs determined pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

f. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections a. and b. of this section, preliminary eligible costs for any addition or reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, modernization, renovation or repair made to a purchased facility within five years of purchase shall be determined as follows:

$$\text{Preliminary eligible costs} = (\text{ACP-PC}) \times (\text{C/CP})$$

where

ACP is the preliminary eligible costs for the facilities purchase pursuant to subsection e. of this section;

PC is the purchase cost for the facility;

C is the area cost allowance at the time of application for the renovation; and

CP is the area cost allowance at the time of purchase of the facility.

Preliminary eligible costs so calculated shall not be less than zero.

L.2000,c.72,s.7.

18A:7G-8 Calculation of number of unhoused students.

8. a. The number of unhoused students shall be calculated as the number of FTE students who are projected to be enrolled in preschool handicapped, preschool, kindergarten, grades 1 through 12, and special education services pupil educational programs provided in a district within five years, which are in excess of the functional capacity of the district's current school facilities or the functional capacity of the school facilities which will be available within five years other than the school facilities for which the preliminary eligible costs are determined, based upon the district's long-range facilities plan. The determination of unhoused capacity shall separately consider projected enrollments and functional capacities at the early childhood and elementary (preschool through grade 5), middle (grades 6 through 8), and high school (grades 9 through 12) levels. For the purpose of calculating the district's unhoused students, special education services students shall be considered part of the grade level to which the students' chronological age corresponds. In the event that the commissioner approves a school facilities project which involves the construction of a new school facility to replace an existing school facility, which shall accommodate both the unhoused students and the students in the existing school facility, the calculation of the number of unhoused

students shall include the number of students currently attending the existing facility which is to be replaced.

b. Approved area for unhoused students (AU) shall be determined according to the following formula:

$$AU = (UEC \times SEC) + (UE \times SE) + (UM \times SM) + (UH \times SH) \text{ where}$$

UEC, UE, UM, UH are the numbers of unhoused students in the early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school enrollment categories, respectively; and

SEC, SE, SM, SH are the area allowances per FTE student in preschool and kindergarten, grades 1 through 5, grades 6 through 8, and grades 9 through 12, respectively. Area allowances shall be determined based on the grade level of a student regardless of the grade configurations used in the school buildings of the district.

The minimum area allowance per FTE student shall be as follows:

Preschool through grade 5	125 sq. ft.
Grades 6 through 8	134 sq. ft.
Grades 9 through 12	151 sq. ft.

The commissioner, in consultation with the State Treasurer and the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, shall adopt regulations that establish a process for the consideration of special circumstances, in addition to those provided in section 5 of this act, in which the area allowances per FTE student established pursuant to this subsection may be adjusted. Any decision made by the commissioner pursuant to those regulations shall be made in consultation with the State Treasurer and the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs.

L.2000,c.72,s.8.

18A:7G-9 Distribution of State debt service aid.

9. a. State debt service aid for capital investment in school facilities for a district other than an SDA district which elects not to finance the project under section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15), shall be distributed upon a determination of preliminary eligible costs by the commissioner, according to the following formula:

Aid is the sum of A for each issuance of school bonds issued for a school facilities project approved by the commissioner after the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.)

where

$$A = B \times AC/P \times DAP \times M, \text{ with } AC/P = 1$$

whenever AC/P would otherwise yield a number greater than one,

and where:

B is the district's debt service for the individual issuance for the fiscal year;

AC is the preliminary eligible costs determined pursuant to section 7 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-7);

P is the principal of the individual issuance plus any other funding sources approved for the school facilities project;

DAP is the district's district aid percentage as defined pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-3) and where DAP shall not be less than 40%; and

M is a factor representing the degree to which a district has fulfilled maintenance requirements for a school facilities project determined pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

For county special services school districts, DAP shall be that of the county vocational school district in the same county.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary, DAP for a county vocational school district school facilities project that is approved by the commissioner following the effective date of P.L.2009, c.185 shall equal the greater of the district's district aid percentage as defined pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-3) or the percentage of the students in the county vocational school district's resident enrollment who reside in SDA districts; except that DAP shall not be less than 40% or greater than 90%.

b. The maintenance factor (M) shall be 1.0 except when one of the following conditions applies, in which case the maintenance factor shall be as specified:

(1) Effective ten years from the date of the enactment of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), the maintenance factor for aid for reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, modernization, renovation or repair, or for an addition to a school facility, shall be zero for all school facilities projects for which the district fails to demonstrate over the ten years preceding issuance a net investment in maintenance of the related school facility of at least 2% of the replacement cost of the school facility, determined pursuant to subsection b. of section 7 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-7) using the area cost allowance of the year ten years preceding the year in which the school bonds are issued.

(2) For new construction, additions, and school facilities aided under subsection

b. of section 7 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-7) supported by financing issued for projects approved by the commissioner after the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), beginning in the fourth year after occupancy of the school facility, the maintenance factor shall be reduced according to the following schedule for all school facilities projects for which the district fails to demonstrate in the prior fiscal year an investment in maintenance of the related school facility of at least two-tenths of 1% of the replacement cost of the school facility, determined pursuant to subsection b. of section 7 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-7).

Maintenance Percentage	Maintenance Factor (M)
.199% - .151%	75%
.150% - .100%	50%
Less than .100%	Zero

(3) Within one year of the enactment of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), the commissioner shall promulgate rules requiring districts to develop a long-range maintenance plan and specifying the expenditures that qualify as an appropriate investment in maintenance for the purposes of this subsection.

c. Any district which obtained approval from the commissioner since September 1, 1998 and prior to the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) of the educational specifications for a school facilities project or obtained approval from the Department of Community Affairs or the appropriately licensed municipal code official since September 1, 1998 of the final construction plans and specifications, and the district has issued debt, may elect to have the final eligible costs of the project determined pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5) and to receive debt service aid under this section or under section 10 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-10).

Any district which received approval from the commissioner for a school facilities project at any time prior to the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), and has not issued debt, other than short term notes, may submit an application pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5) to have the final eligible costs of the project determined pursuant to that section and to have the New Jersey Economic Development Authority construct the project; or, at its discretion, the district may choose to receive debt service aid under this section or under section 10 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-10) or to receive a grant under section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15).

For the purposes of this subsection, the "issuance of debt" shall include lease purchase agreements in excess of five years.

d. For school bonds issued for a school facilities project after the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) and prior to the effective date of P.L.2008, c.39 (C.18A:7G-14.1 et al.), State debt service aid shall be calculated in accordance with the

provisions of this section as the same read before the effective date of P.L.2008, c.39 (C.18A:7G-14.1 et al.).

L.2000, c.72, s.9; amended 2007, c.137, s.22; 2007, c.260, s.42; 2008, c.39, s.3; 2009, c.185, s.2.

18A:7G-10 Issuance of school bonds, certificates of participation, determination of aid.

10. For each issuance of school bonds or certificates of participation issued for a school facilities project approved by the commissioner prior to the effective date of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.):

Aid is the sum of A

where

$$A = B \times \text{EQAID}/AB$$

and where

B is the district's total debt service or lease purchase payment for the individual issuance for the fiscal year;

EQAID is the district's equalization aid amount determined pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7G-53); and

AB is the district's adequacy budget determined pursuant to section 9 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-51).

For county special services school districts, EQAID/AB shall be that of the county vocational school district in the same county.

L.2000, c.72, s.10; amended 2007, c.260, s.43.

18A:7G-11 Approval of local share of project.

11. A school facilities project shall not be constructed unless the local share of the project, if any, is approved in accordance with the provisions for the approval of capital projects pursuant to N.J.S.18A:22-1 et seq., N.J.S.18A:24-1 et seq. and P.L.1991, c.139 (C.18A:7A-46.1 et seq.), as applicable to the district.

L.2000,c.72,s.11.

18A:7G-12 Submission of project to commissioner for approval of local share.

12. A district, other than a district under full State intervention, that sought approval pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-11) of a school facilities project without excess costs but failed to receive that approval, and within the three years prior to that, sought and failed to receive approval of that school facilities project with or without excess costs, may submit the project to the commissioner and request that the commissioner approve the project and authorize the issuance of school bonds for the local share of the project. Upon receipt of the request, the commissioner shall review the school facilities project and determine whether the project is necessary for the provision of a thorough and efficient system of education in the district. If the commissioner concludes that the project is necessary, the commissioner may approve the project without excess costs and authorize the issuance of school bonds to fund the local share. In addition to the amount of taxes determined by the legal voters of the district at the annual school election, the secretary of the board of education shall certify the amount required for the repayment of the interest and principal of the bonds required to fund the local share amount approved by the commissioner in the same manner required for interest and debt redemption charges pursuant to N.J.S.18A:22-33, and the amount so certified shall be included in the taxes assessed, levied and collected in the municipality or municipalities comprising the school district for those purposes.

Any school facilities project authorized pursuant to this section shall be undertaken by the development authority in accordance with an agreement between the development authority and the district. Nothing in this section shall preclude a school district under full State intervention from using the process established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.139 (C.18A:7A-46.2) to obtain the approval of the commissioner to undertake a school facilities project.

L.2000, c.72, s.12; amended 2007, c.137, s.23.

18A:7G-13 Responsibilities of financing authority, development authority.

13. a. The financing authority shall be responsible for the issuance of bonds pursuant to section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) and the development authority shall be responsible for the planning, design, construction management, acquisition, construction, and completion of school facilities projects. In the case of a capital maintenance project, the development authority may, in its discretion, authorize an SDA district to undertake the design, acquisition, construction and all other appropriate actions necessary to complete the capital maintenance project and shall enter into a grant agreement with the district for the payment of the State share. The development authority may also authorize an SDA district to undertake the design, acquisition, construction and all other appropriate actions necessary to complete any other school facilities project in accordance with the procedures established pursuant to subsection e. of this section.

b. The financing authority shall undertake the financing of school facilities projects pursuant to the provisions of this act. The financing authority shall finance the

State share of a school facilities project and may, in its discretion and upon consultation with the district, finance the local share of the project. In the event that the financing authority finances only the State share of a project, the development authority shall not commence acquisition or construction of the project until the development authority receives the local share from the district.

c. In order to implement the arrangements established for school facilities projects which are to be constructed by the development authority and financed pursuant to this section, a district shall enter into an agreement with the development authority and the commissioner containing the terms and conditions determined by the parties to be necessary to effectuate the project.

d. Upon completion by the development authority of a school facilities project, the district shall enter into an agreement with the development authority to provide for the maintenance of the project by the district. In the event that the school facilities project is constructed by a district, upon the completion of the project, the district shall submit to the commissioner a plan to provide for the maintenance of the project by the district. Any agreement or plan shall contain, in addition to any other terms and provisions, a requirement for the establishment of a maintenance reserve fund consistent with the appropriation and withdrawal requirements for capital reserve accounts established pursuant to section 57 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-31), the funding levels of which shall be as set forth in regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 26 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-26).

e. (1) Within one year of the effective date of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.), the commissioner, in consultation with the development authority, shall adopt pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations by which the commissioner shall determine whether an SDA district is eligible to be considered by the development authority to manage a school facilities project or projects. In making the determination, the commissioner shall consider the district's fiscal integrity and operations, the district's performance in each of the five key components of school district effectiveness under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) in accordance with section 10 of P.L.1975, c.212 (C.18A:7A-10), and other relevant factors.

(2) Within one year of the effective date of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.), the development authority, in consultation with the commissioner, shall adopt pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations by which the development authority shall determine the capacity of an SDA district, deemed eligible by the commissioner pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, to manage a school facilities project or projects identified by the development authority. In making the determination, the development authority shall consider the experience of the SDA district, the size, complexity, and cost of the project, time constraints, and other relevant factors.

(3) The development authority, in consultation with the commissioner, shall develop and implement training programs, seminars, or symposia to provide technical assistance to SDA districts deemed to lack the capacity to manage a school facility project or projects; except that nothing herein shall be construed to require the development authority or the commissioner to authorize an SDA district to hire additional staff in order to achieve capacity.

(4) If the development authority determines to delegate a school facilities project to an SDA district in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection, the development authority, the commissioner, and the district shall enter into a grant agreement.

L.2000, c.72, s.13; amended 2004, c.73, s.4; 2007, c.137, s.24; 2007, c.260, s.44.

18A:7G-13.1 Audits conducted of certain projects.

9. The development authority, in consultation with the State Comptroller, shall cause an audit to be conducted of a school facilities project financed pursuant to P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) which has a State share that exceeds \$10,000,000. This provision shall not be construed to limit the authority of the development authority or the State Comptroller to conduct audits of other school facilities projects as provided by law.

L.2008, c.39, s.9.

18A:7G-14 Powers of financing authority; powers of development authority.

14. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary:

a. The financing authority shall have the power, pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), P.L.1974, c.80 (C.34:1B-1 et seq.) and P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.), to issue bonds and refunding bonds, incur indebtedness and borrow money secured, in whole or in part, by moneys received pursuant to sections 17, 18 and 19 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-17, C.18A:7G-18 and C.18A:7G-19) for the purposes of: financing all or a portion of the costs of school facilities projects and any costs related to the issuance thereof, including, but not limited to, the administrative, insurance, operating and other expenses of the financing authority to undertake the financing, and the development authority to undertake the planning, design, and construction of school facilities projects; lending moneys to local units to pay the costs of all or a portion of school facilities projects and any costs related to the issuance thereof; funding the grants to be made pursuant to section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15); and financing the acquisition of school facilities projects to permit the refinancing of debt by the district pursuant to section 16 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-16). The aggregate principal amount of the bonds, notes or other obligations issued by the financing authority as authorized pursuant to P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) shall not exceed: \$100,000,000 for the State share of costs for county vocational school district school

facilities projects; \$6,000,000,000 for the State share of costs for Abbott district school facilities projects; and \$2,500,000,000 for the State share of costs for school facilities projects in all other districts. The aggregate principal amount of the bonds, notes or other obligations issued by the financing authority as authorized pursuant to P.L.2008, c.39 (C.18A:7G-14.1 et al.) shall not exceed: \$2,900,000,000 for the State share of costs of SDA district school facilities projects; and \$1,000,000,000 for the State share of costs for school facilities projects in all other districts, \$50,000,000 of which shall be allocated for the State share of costs for county vocational school district school facilities projects. This limitation shall not include any bonds, notes or other obligations issued for refunding purposes.

The financing authority may establish reserve funds to further secure bonds and refunding bonds issued pursuant to this section and may issue bonds to pay for the administrative, insurance and operating costs of the financing authority and the development authority in carrying out the provisions of this act. In addition to its bonds and refunding bonds, the financing authority shall have the power to issue subordinated indebtedness, which shall be subordinate in lien to the lien of any or all of its bonds or refunding bonds as the financing authority may determine.

b. The financing authority shall issue the bonds or refunding bonds in such manner as it shall determine in accordance with the provisions of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), P.L.1974, c.80 (C.34:1B-1 et seq.), and P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.); provided that notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no resolution adopted by the financing authority authorizing the issuance of bonds or refunding bonds pursuant to this section shall be adopted or otherwise made effective without the approval in writing of the State Treasurer; and refunding bonds issued to refund bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be issued on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the financing authority and the State Treasurer. The financing authority may, in any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or refunding bonds issued pursuant to this section, pledge the contract with the State Treasurer provided for pursuant to section 18 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-18), or any part thereof, or may pledge all or any part of the repayments of loans made to local units pursuant to section 19 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-19) for the payment or redemption of the bonds or refunding bonds, and covenant as to the use and disposition of money available to the financing authority for payment of the bonds and refunding bonds. All costs associated with the issuance of bonds and refunding bonds by the financing authority for the purposes set forth in this act may be paid by the financing authority from amounts it receives from the proceeds of the bonds or refunding bonds, and from amounts it receives pursuant to sections 17, 18, and 19 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-17, C.18A:7G-18 and C.18A:7G-19). The costs may include, but shall not be limited to, any costs relating to the issuance of the bonds or refunding bonds, administrative costs of the financing authority attributable to the making and administering of loans and grants to fund school facilities projects, and costs attributable to the agreements entered into pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

c. Each issue of bonds or refunding bonds of the financing authority shall be special obligations of the financing authority payable out of particular revenues, receipts or funds, subject only to any agreements with the holders of bonds or refunding bonds, and may be secured by other sources of revenue, including, but not limited to, one or more of the following:

(1) Pledge of the revenues and other receipts to be derived from the payment of local unit obligations and any other payment made to the financing authority pursuant to agreements with any local unit, or a pledge or assignment of any local unit obligations, and the rights and interest of the financing authority therein;

(2) Pledge of rentals, receipts and other revenues to be derived from leases or other contractual arrangements with any person or entity, public or private, including one or more local units, or a pledge or assignment of those leases or other contractual arrangements and the rights and interests of the financing authority therein;

(3) Pledge of all moneys, funds, accounts, securities and other funds, including the proceeds of the bonds;

(4) Pledge of the receipts to be derived from payments of State aid to the financing authority pursuant to section 21 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-21);

(5) Pledge of the contract or contracts with the State Treasurer pursuant to section 18 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-18);

(6) Pledge of any sums remitted to the local unit by donation from any person or entity, public or private, subject to the approval of the State Treasurer;

(7) A mortgage on all or any part of the property, real or personal, comprising a school facilities project then owned or thereafter to be acquired, or a pledge or assignment of mortgages made to the financing authority by any person or entity, public or private, including one or more local units and rights and interests of the financing authority therein; and

(8) The receipt of any grants, reimbursements or other payments from the federal government.

d. The resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or refunding bonds pursuant to this section may also provide for the financing authority to enter into any revolving credit agreement, agreement establishing a line of credit or letter of credit, reimbursement agreement, interest rate exchange agreement, currency exchange agreement, interest rate floor or cap, options, puts or calls to hedge payment, currency, rate, spread or similar exposure or similar agreements, float agreements, forward agreements, insurance contracts, surety bonds, commitments to purchase or sell bonds, purchase or sale agreements, or commitments or other contracts or agreements and other security

agreements approved by the financing authority in connection with the issuance of the bonds or refunding bonds pursuant to this section. In addition, the financing authority may, in anticipation of the issuance of the bonds or the receipt of appropriations, grants, reimbursements or other funds, including, without limitation, grants from the federal government for school facilities projects, issue notes, the principal of or interest on which, or both, shall be payable out of the proceeds of notes, bonds or other obligations of the financing authority or appropriations, grants, reimbursements or other funds or revenues of the financing authority.

e. The financing authority is authorized to engage, subject to the approval of the State Treasurer and in such manner as the State Treasurer shall determine, the services of financial advisors and experts, placement agents, underwriters, appraisers, and other advisors, consultants and agents as may be necessary to effectuate the financing of school facilities projects.

f. Bonds and refunding bonds issued by the financing authority pursuant to this section shall be special and limited obligations of the financing authority payable from, and secured by, funds and moneys determined by the financing authority in accordance with this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or agreement to the contrary, any bonds and refunding bonds issued by the financing authority pursuant to this section shall not be secured by the same property as bonds and refunding bonds issued by the financing authority to finance projects other than school facilities projects. Neither the members of the financing authority nor any other person executing the bonds or refunding bonds shall be personally liable with respect to payment of interest and principal on these bonds or refunding bonds. Bonds or refunding bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be a debt or liability of the State or any agency or instrumentality thereof, except as otherwise provided by this subsection, either legal, moral or otherwise, and nothing contained in this act shall be construed to authorize the financing authority to incur any indebtedness on behalf of or in any way to obligate the State or any political subdivision thereof, and all bonds and refunding bonds issued by the financing authority shall contain a statement to that effect on their face.

g. The State hereby pledges and covenants with the holders of any bonds or refunding bonds issued pursuant to this act that it will not limit or alter the rights or powers vested in the financing authority by this act, nor limit or alter the rights or powers of the State Treasurer in any manner which would jeopardize the interest of the holders or any trustee of the holders, or inhibit or prevent performance or fulfillment by the financing authority or the State Treasurer with respect to the terms of any agreement made with the holders of the bonds or refunding bonds or agreements made pursuant to subsection d. of this section; except that the failure of the Legislature to appropriate moneys for any purpose of this act shall not be deemed a violation of this section.

h. The financing authority and the development authority may charge to and collect from local units, districts, the State and any other person, any fees and charges in connection with the financing authority's or development authority's actions undertaken with respect to school facilities projects, including, but not limited to, fees and charges

for the financing authority's administrative, organization, insurance, operating and other expenses incident to the financing of school facilities projects, and the development authority's administrative, organization, insurance, operating, planning, design, construction management, acquisition, construction, completion and placing into service and maintenance of school facilities projects. Notwithstanding any provision of this act to the contrary, no SDA district shall be responsible for the payment of any fees and charges related to the development authority's operating expenses.

i. Upon the issuance by the financing authority of bonds pursuant to this section, other than refunding bonds, the net proceeds of the bonds shall be transferred to the development authority.

L.2000, c.72, s.14; amended 2005, c.235, s.33; 2007, c.137, s.25; 2007, c.260, s.45; 2008, c. 39, s.4.

18A:7G-14.1 Priority for projects of certain county vocational school districts.

8. The school facilities projects of a county vocational school district that did not receive State support for its projects from the \$100,000,000 of bond proceeds originally allocated for the State share of county vocational school district school facilities projects pursuant to section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) shall receive priority in the allocation of the bond proceeds authorized for the State share of county vocational school district school facilities projects pursuant to P.L.2008, c.39 (C.18A:7G-14.1 et al.) provided that the county vocational school district demonstrates to the commissioner the need for the school facilities projects.

L.2008, c.39, s.8.

18A:7G-15 Election by district to receive one-time grant for State share.

15. a. In the case of a district other than an SDA district, for any project approved by the commissioner after the effective date of this act, the district may elect to receive a one-time grant for the State share of the project in accordance with the provisions of subsection b. of this section rather than annual debt service aid under section 9 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-9). The State share payable to the district shall equal the product of the project's final eligible costs and the district aid percentage or 40%, whichever is greater.

b. The commissioner shall establish a process for the annual allocation of grant funding. Under that process, the commissioner shall annually notify districts of the date on which the commissioner shall begin to receive applications for grant funding. A district shall have 90 days from that date to submit an application to the commissioner. The commissioner shall make a decision on a district's application within 90 days of the submission of all such applications and shall allocate the grant funding in accordance with the priority process established pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection m. of section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5).

c. The development authority shall provide grant funding for the State's share of the final eligible costs of a school facilities project pursuant to an agreement between the district and the development authority which shall, in addition to other terms and conditions, set forth the terms of disbursement of the State share. The funding of the State share shall not commence until the district secures financing for the local share.

L.2000, c.72, s.15; amended 2007, c.137, s.26; 2007, c.260, s.46; 2008, c.39, s.5.

18A:7G-15.1 Rules, regulations.

11. Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to the contrary, the commissioner may adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law, such rules and regulations as the commissioner deems necessary to implement the process for the allocation of grant funding as established pursuant to subsection b. of section 15 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-15) which shall be effective for a period not to exceed 12 months. The regulations shall thereafter be amended, adopted, or readopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

L.2008, c.39, s.11.

18A:7G-16 Additional powers, duties of financing authority.

16. In addition to the other powers and duties which have been granted to the financing authority, whenever any local unit finances the construction or acquisition of a school facilities project which would otherwise qualify under this act except that the debt was issued prior to the effective date of this act, the financing authority may refinance the debt issued by the local unit through the issuance of bonds secured by repayments of loans made to the local units and may purchase the work or improvement and lease the same to the district, subject to the approval of the State Treasurer; except that the amount of the purchase price for a school facilities project shall not exceed the original cost. Each loan to a local unit pursuant to this section shall be evidenced by local unit obligations and shall be authorized and issued as provided by law. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary, the local unit obligations may be sold at private sale to the financing authority at any price, whether or not less than par value, and shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity at any times and at any prices as the financing authority and the local unit may agree. All powers, rights, obligations and duties granted to or imposed upon the financing authority, districts, State departments and agencies or others by this act in respect to school facilities projects shall apply to the same extent with respect to any refinance of debt pursuant to this section; except that any action otherwise required to be taken at a particular time in the implementation of a school facilities project may, when the circumstances require in connection with a refinance of debt pursuant to this section, be taken with the same effect as if taken at that particular time. Upon repayment of the bonds or provision for repayment of bonds issued by the financing authority to

refinance the debt of the local unit, the school facilities project shall be transferred to the district.

L.2000, c.72, s.15; amended 2007, c.137, s.27.

18A:7G-17 Annual payment to financing authority by State.

17. In each fiscal year the State Treasurer shall pay from the General Fund to the financing authority, in accordance with a contract between the State Treasurer and the financing authority as authorized pursuant to section 18 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-18), an amount equal to the debt service amount due to be paid in the State fiscal year on the bonds or refunding bonds of the financing authority issued or incurred pursuant to section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) and any additional costs authorized pursuant to that section; provided that all such payments from the General Fund shall be subject to and dependent upon appropriations being made from time to time by the Legislature for those purposes, and provided further that all payments shall be used only to pay for the costs of school facilities projects and the costs of financing those projects.

In regard to the increase in the amount of bonds authorized to be issued by the financing authority pursuant to P.L.2008, c.39 for the State share of costs for school facilities projects, debt service on the bonds or refunding bonds issued or incurred by the financing authority pursuant to section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) and any additional costs authorized pursuant to that section shall first be payable from revenues received from the gross income tax pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," P.L.1976, c.47 (C.54A:1-1 et seq.), except for debt service and additional costs for the administrative, insurance, operating, and other expenses of the financing authority and the development authority incurred in connection with school facilities projects.

L.2000, c.72, s.17; amended 2007, c.137, s.28; 2008, c.39, s.6.

18A:7G-18 Financing authority to enter into contracts for State payments.

18. The State Treasurer and the financing authority are authorized to enter into one or more contracts to implement the payment arrangement provided for in section 17 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-17). The contract shall provide for payment by the State Treasurer of the amounts required pursuant to section 17 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-17) and shall set forth the procedure for the transfer of moneys for the purpose of that payment. The contract shall contain terms and conditions as determined by the parties and shall, where appropriate, contain terms and conditions necessary and desirable to secure any bonds or refunding bonds of the financing authority issued or incurred pursuant to this act; provided that notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation of the financing authority to the contrary, the financing authority shall be paid only such funds as shall be determined by the contract, and the incurrence of any obligation of the State under the contract, including any payments to be made thereunder from the General Fund, shall be subject to and dependent upon appropriations being

made from time to time by the Legislature for the purposes of this act.

L.2000, c.72, s.18; amended 2007, c.137, s.29.

18A:7G-19 Loans to local units.

19. a. The financing authority may make and contract to make loans to local units in accordance with and subject to the provisions of this act to finance all or any portion of the cost of a school facilities project which the local unit may lawfully undertake or acquire and for which the local unit is authorized by law to borrow money; or to refund obligations of the local unit which were issued to provide funds to pay for the cost of a school facilities project. The loans may be made subject to the terms and conditions the financing authority determines to be consistent with the purposes of this act. Each loan by the financing authority and the terms and conditions thereof shall be subject to approval by the State Treasurer.

b. Each loan to a local unit shall be evidenced by local unit obligations and shall be authorized and issued as provided by law. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, the local unit obligations may be sold at private sale to the financing authority at any price, whether or not less than par value, and shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity at any times and at any prices as the financing authority and the local unit may agree. Each loan to a local unit and the local unit obligations issued to evidence the loan shall bear interest at a rate or rates per annum, including zero interest, and shall be repaid in whole or in part, as the financing authority and the local unit may agree, with the approval of the State Treasurer.

L.2000, c.72, s.19; amended 2007, c.137, s.30.

18A:7G-20 Acquisition of school facilities by local unit.

20. A local unit may purchase, lease, rent, sublease or otherwise acquire any school facilities project or any space within a project and pay the amounts as may be agreed upon between the local unit and the development authority as the purchase price, rent or other charge therefor; provided that the terms and conditions of the agreement between the development authority and the local unit relating to the purchase, lease, rental or sublease shall be subject to the approval of the State Treasurer.

L.2000, c.72, s.19; amended 2007, c.137, s.30.

18A:7G-21 Payment to financing, development authority to cover deficiency.

21. a. In the event that a local unit has failed or is unable to pay to the financing authority or the development authority in full when due any local unit obligations issued by the local unit to the financing authority, including, but not limited to, any lease or sublease obligations, or any other moneys owed by the district to the financing authority,

to assure the continued operation and solvency of the authority, the State Treasurer shall pay directly to the financing authority an amount sufficient to satisfy the deficiency from State aid payable to the local unit; provided that if the local unit is a school district, the State aid shall not include any State aid which may otherwise be restricted pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-43 et al.). As used in this section, local unit obligations include the principal or interest on local unit obligations or payment pursuant to a lease or sublease of a school facilities project to a local unit, including the subrogation of the financing authority to the right of the holders of those obligations, any fees or charges payable to the financing authority, and any amounts payable by a local unit under a service contract or other contractual arrangement the payments under which are pledged to secure any local unit obligations issued to the financing authority by another local unit.

b. If the financing authority requires, and if there has been a failure or inability of a local unit to pay its local unit obligations to the financing authority for a period of 30 days, the chairman or the executive director of the financing authority shall certify to the State Treasurer, with written notice to the fiscal officer of the local unit, the amount remaining unpaid, and the State Treasurer shall pay that amount to the financing authority; or if the right to receive those payments has been pledged or assigned to a trustee for the benefit of the holders of bonds or refunding bonds of the financing authority, to that trustee, out of the State aid payable to the local unit, until the amount so certified has been paid. Notwithstanding any provision of this act to the contrary, the State Treasurer's obligation to pay the financing authority pursuant to this section shall not extend beyond the amount of State aid payable to the local unit.

c. The amount paid to the financing authority pursuant to this section shall be deducted from the appropriation or apportionment of State aid payable to the local unit and shall not obligate the State to make, nor entitle the local unit to receive, any additional appropriation or apportionment. The obligation of the State Treasurer to make payments to the financing authority or trustee and the right of the financing authority or trustee to receive those payments shall be subject and subordinate to the rights of holders of qualified bonds issued prior to the effective date of this act pursuant to P.L.1976, c.38 (C.40A:3-1 et seq.) and P.L.1976, c.39 (C.18A:24-85 et seq.).

L.2000, c.72, s.21; amended 2007, c.137, s.32; 2007, c.260, s.47.

18A:7G-22 Powers of financing and development authorities relative to acceptance and use of funds.

22. a. The financing authority and the development authority shall have the power to accept and use any funds appropriated and paid by the State to the financing authority and the development authority for the purposes for which the appropriations are made. The financing authority and the development authority shall have the power to apply for and receive and accept appropriations or grants of property, money, services or reimbursements for money previously spent and other assistance offered or made available to it by or from any person, government agency, public authority or any public

or private entity whatever for any lawful corporate purpose of the financing authority or the development authority, including, without limitation, grants, appropriations or reimbursements from the federal government, and to apply and negotiate for the same upon such terms and conditions as may be required by any person, government agency, authority or entity as the financing authority or the development authority may determine to be necessary, convenient or desirable.

b. The development authority and the State Treasurer may establish a financial incentive program for the purpose of promoting donations to school facilities projects. Any entity which makes a donation approved by the State Treasurer to the preliminary eligible costs of a school facilities project shall receive an incentive payment pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The amount of the incentive payment shall equal 50% of the fair market value of the donation but shall not in any one year exceed one-half of the amount of taxes paid or otherwise due from the donor pursuant to the provisions of the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," P.L.1976, c.47 (C.54A:1-1 et seq.), or the "Corporation Business Tax Act," P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.), as applicable, for the tax year in which the donation is made. The fair market value of a non-cash donation shall be determined by the State Treasurer. The carry-forward for incentive payments shall not be inconsistent with that allowed by P.L.1976, c.47 (C.54A:1-1 et seq.) in the case of a donation by an individual, or P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.) in the case of a donation by a corporation.

All incentive payments made pursuant to this section shall be funded by and shall be subject to annual appropriations for this purpose, and shall in no way rely upon funds raised by the issuance of bonds for school facilities projects.

L.2000, c.72, s.22; amended 2007, c.137, s.33.

18A:7G-23 Prevailing wage rates on construction contracts.

23. a. Not less than the prevailing wage rate determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.25 et seq.) shall be paid to workers employed in the performance of construction contracts in connection with any school facilities project that is undertaken by the development authority, a redevelopment entity, or a district and any contractor who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be prohibited from subsequently bidding on any State or district contract.

b. Registration fees collected pursuant to P.L.1999, c.238 (C.34:11-56.48 et seq.) shall be applied toward the enforcement and administrative costs of the Division of Workplace Standards, Office of Wage and Hour Compliance, Public Contracts section and Registration section within the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

L.2000, c.72, s.23; amended 2007, c.137, s.34.

18A:7G-24 Biannual report on school facilities construction program.

24. The development authority, in consultation with the State Treasurer, the financing authority, and the commissioner, shall biannually submit to the Governor, the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly a report on the school facilities construction program established pursuant to the provisions of this act. The report shall be submitted no later than June 1 and December 1 of each year and shall include, but not be limited to, the following information for the prior six-month period: the number of school facilities projects approved by the commissioner pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-5); the number of projects undertaken and funded by the development authority; the information on construction contracts required to be compiled pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2010, c.96 (C.18A:7G-24.1); the aggregate principal amount of bonds, notes or other obligations issued by the financing authority for the State share of construction and renovation of school facilities and whether there is a need to adjust the aggregate principal amount of bonds, notes or other obligations authorized for issuance pursuant to subsection a. of section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14); the number of approved projects which exceeded the facilities efficiency standards, the components of those projects which exceeded the standards, and the amount of construction by individual districts and Statewide estimated to have exceeded the standards; and recommendations for changes in the school facilities construction program established pursuant to this act which have been formulated as a result of its experience with the program or through collaboration with program stakeholders.

In addition, the biannual report shall include a comparison of the costs of school facilities projects undertaken and funded by the development authority to similar school facilities projects constructed in the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the United States Department of Labor. The development authority shall include in the report an explanation of the methodology used in making the comparison.

L.2000, c.72, s.24; amended 2007, c.137, s.35; 2010, c.96,s.2.

18A:7G-24.1 Information submitted by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority.

1. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-237), shall biannually compile information for inclusion in the biannual report required to be submitted by the development authority pursuant to section 24 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-24) on the number of school facilities project construction contracts entered into between the development authority and minority and women contractors during the prior six-month period covered in the report. The information shall include the total value of the contracts and the percentage that those

contracts represent of all school facilities project contracts entered into between the development authority and contractors in the prior six-month period.

L.2010, c.96, s.1.

18A:7G-25 Appropriation of unexpended balance.

25. Notwithstanding the provisions of the annual appropriations act to the contrary concerning the conditions on the appropriation and reappropriation of the balance in the School Construction and Renovation Fund, the unexpended balance in the School Construction and Renovation Fund on the effective date of this act is appropriated to the authority to be used to pay for school facilities projects and the administrative, insurance, and other operating costs of the authority incurred in connection with school facilities projects. In addition, there is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, for the Unit of Fiscal Integrity in School Construction, established pursuant to section 70 of this act, and any additional amounts as may be required by the unit, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting and the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

L.2000,c.72,s.25.

18A:7G-26 Rules, regulations.

26. a. The commissioner shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of sections 1 through 12 and 57 and 58 and 64 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) and P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.); except that notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to the contrary, the commissioner may adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law, such rules and regulations as the commissioner deems necessary to implement the provisions of sections 1 through 12 and 57 and 58 and 64 of this act which shall be effective for a period not to exceed 12 months. Determinations made by the commissioner pursuant to this act and the rules and regulations adopted by the commissioner to implement this act shall be considered to be final agency action and appeal of that action shall be directly to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court. The regulations shall thereafter be amended, adopted or re-adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

b. The development authority shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) and P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.) that apply to the development authority; except that notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to the contrary, the development authority may adopt immediately upon filing with the Office of

Administrative Law, such rules and regulations as the development authority deems necessary which shall be effective for a period not to exceed 12 months and shall thereafter be amended, adopted or re-adopted by the authority, in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

The rules and regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) shall remain in full force and effect unless subsequently revised by the development authority following the enactment of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.).

c. Any regulations adopted to implement this act shall include provisions to ensure that all programs necessary to comply with *Abbott v. Burke*, 153 N.J. 480 (1998) (*Abbott V*), are approved.

L.2000, c.72, s.26; amended 2007, c.137, s.36.

18A:7G-27 Development or financing authority property exempt from levy, sale.

27. All property of the development authority and the financing authority shall be exempt from levy and sale by virtue of an execution and no execution or other judicial process shall issue against the same nor shall any judgment against the development authority or the financing authority be a charge or lien upon its property; provided that nothing herein contained shall apply to or limit the rights of the holder of any bonds, notes or other obligations to pursue any remedy for the enforcement of any pledge or lien given by the development authority or the financing authority on or with respect to any project, school facilities project, or any revenues or other moneys.

L.2000, c.72, s.27; amended 2007, c.137, s.37.

18A:7G-28 Severability.

28. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

L.2000,c.72,s.28.

18A:7G-29 Liberal construction.

29. This act shall be construed liberally to effectuate the legislative intent and the purposes of this act as complete and independent authority for the performance of each

act and thing herein authorized and all powers herein granted shall be broadly interpreted to effectuate the intent and purposes and not as a limitation of powers.

L.2000,c.72,s.29.

18A:7G-30 Annual appropriation from tobacco settlement.

30. There shall be appropriated annually for the purposes of this act up to \$100,000,000 from moneys made available to the State from tobacco companies under the nationwide settlement of the respective actions by the various states against those companies, entered into by this State in the Master Settlement Agreement in State of New Jersey v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, et al., Superior Court, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, No.C.254-96.

L.2000,c.72,s.30.

18A:7G-31 Establishment of capital reserve account.

57. a. Notwithstanding any provision of this act or any other law or regulation to the contrary, a board of education or a board of school estimate, as appropriate, may, through the adoption of a board resolution, establish a capital reserve account. The account shall be established and held in accordance with GAAP and shall be subject to annual audit. The funds in the capital reserve account shall be used to finance the district's long-range facilities plan required pursuant to subsection a. of section 4 of this act and the amount in the account shall not exceed the total amount of local funds required to implement the plan.

b. A board of education or a board of school estimate, as appropriate, may appropriate funds in the district's annual budget for the establishment of the capital reserve account pursuant to subsection a. of this section or to supplement the funds in the account as required to meet the needs of the long-range facilities plan.

c. A board of education may, by resolution of the board: transfer funds from the capital reserve account to the appropriate line item account for the funding of capital projects as contained in the district's long-range facilities plan; and transfer funds from the capital reserve account to the debt service account for the purpose of offsetting principal and interest payments for bonded projects which are included in the district's long-range facilities plan.

L.2000,c.72,s.57; amended 2004, c.73, s.5.

18A:7G-32 "County Vocational School District Facilities Rehabilitation Fund."

58. a. There is hereby created a special fund in the Department of Education which shall be entitled the "County Vocational School District Facilities Rehabilitation Fund." The fund shall be maintained in a separate account and administered by the commissioner

to carry out the provisions of this section. The fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated by the State for the purposes of the fund and all interest and investment earnings received on moneys in the fund.

b. A county vocational school district may apply to the commissioner for a grant in the maximum amount of \$500,000 to be matched by the district for the purposes of funding health and safety school facilities rehabilitation projects. The grant and matching district funds shall be maintained by the district in a special revenue fund as certified by the district's board of education and its chief financial officer and shall be subject to annual audit. A project funded through the grant fund shall not require the approval of the commissioner pursuant to section 5 of this act.

c. Any county vocational school district which receives grant funding pursuant to subsection b. of this section shall not be eligible to receive school facilities aid pursuant to any other provision of this act for a period of five years from the district's receipt of the grant, except that the district may receive debt service aid pursuant to section 10 of this act; and any county vocational school district which receives aid under any provision of this act other than section 10, shall not receive a grant pursuant to subsection b. of this section for five years after approval of a project which is otherwise funded under this act.

L.2000,c.72,s.58.

18A:7G-33 Process for prequalification of contractors.

59. The development authority shall establish a process for the prequalification of contractors that desire to bid on school facilities projects. A contractor shall not be permitted to bid on such a school facilities project unless the contractor has been prequalified pursuant to P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.).

The prequalification process shall apply to general contractors, construction managers, and contractors including those in the following areas:

- (1) plumbing and gas fitting and all work and materials kindred thereto;
- (2) steam and hot water heating and ventilating apparatus, steam power plants and all work and materials kindred thereto;
- (3) electrical work; and
- (4) structural steel and miscellaneous iron work and materials.

The prequalification process established by the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) shall remain in full force and effect unless subsequently revised by the development authority following the enactment of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.).

L.2000, c.72, s.59; amended 2007, c.137, s.38.

18A:7G-34 Prequalification process, submission requirements.

60. a. The prequalification process shall include a requirement that the contractor proposing to submit bids on a school facilities project submit a statement under oath on a form designated by the development authority. The form shall fully describe and establish the financial ability, responsibility, plant and equipment, organization, ownership, relationships and prior experience of the prospective bidder and any other pertinent and material facts as may be deemed necessary by the development authority. The submission shall include:

(1) A certified, audited financial statement or compilation of financial statements or other documentation of financial status acceptable to the development authority;

(2) Proof of any contractor or trade license required by law for any trade or specialty area in which the contractor is seeking prequalification and a statement as to whether any contractor or trade license has been revoked;

(3) A statement as to bonding capacity, which shall be from a surety authorized to issue bid, performance and payment bonds in the State of New Jersey in accordance with N.J.S.2A:44-143 through N.J.S.2A:44-147 to the contractor, and shall indicate aggregate bonding limits;

(4) A list of the names and titles of all individuals who own 10% or more of any class of stock in the corporation or are a 10% or more partner in the firm. If any of the aforementioned stockholders or partners is itself a corporation, or a partnership, that entity shall also provide the information specified herein;

(5) Disclosure of any judgments, convictions or criminal indictments for any conduct constituting a crime under local, State or federal law;

(6) Disclosure of any unsatisfied judgments, injunctions or liens obtained by a governmental agency including, but not limited to, judgments based on taxes owed and fines and penalties assessed by any government agency;

(7) Disclosure of any determination for violations of federal, State or local laws, rules or regulations, including health laws, unemployment insurance or workers' compensation coverage or claim requirements, the "Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974" (Pub.L.93-406, 29 U.S.C. s. 1001 et seq.), security laws, environmental laws, safety laws, licensing laws, tax laws and antitrust laws;

(8) Disclosure of any federal, State or local debarments, non-responsibility findings or denials of prequalification;

(9) Disclosure of any bankruptcy filings or proceedings;

(10) A statement as to past performance, which shall give an accurate and complete record of work completed in the past five years by the contractor giving the names of the projects, type of work, location, contract price, bid and final contract amount paid and the names of the owner and of the architect or engineer in charge for the owner. This statement shall also disclose any labor problems experienced, any failure to complete a contract on schedule, any penalties, judgments, orders or liens imposed by reason of any contract undertaken within the five-year period and whether the contractor has been defaulted for cause on any project as determined by an unappealed or nonappealable decision. This statement shall also indicate the status of any litigation pending against the potential bidder. The contractor shall be required to attach to this statement all performance evaluations in his possession for any work performed by the contractor on any public or private projects;

(11) A statement as to organization, which shall demonstrate the adequacy of such organization to undertake a school facilities project. This statement shall include the resumes of the management and professional staff;

(12) A statement setting forth the contractor's equipment inventory and technical resources; and

(13) A statement on staffing capabilities, including labor sources, staffing plans, turnover rates, and any use of registered apprenticeship programs and journeyman training programs.

b. After the receipt of the submission provided for in subsection a. of this section, the development authority may verify information provided in the contractor's submission, including applicable license and certificate requirements, federal or State debarments and violations of law. The development authority may also conduct random inquiries or surveys of the contractor's prior customers.

c. Based upon the submission provided for in subsection a. of this section the development authority shall assign a contractor the following classification and limits for the purpose of determining the types of projects for which a contractor is entitled to bid:

(1) a trade or work classification; and

(2) an aggregate rating limit.

To effectuate these requirements of the prequalification process, the development authority shall develop rules and regulations for assigning classifications and aggregate limits.

d. The classification shall be made and an immediate notice thereof shall be sent to the contractor by registered or certified mail or other legally valid methods.

e. The development authority shall establish procedures to permit contractors to challenge a classification made pursuant to this section.

f. The prequalification submission shall include an affidavit which acknowledges receipt of information regarding the appropriate federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training apprenticeship laws and regulations as adopted by the State and information regarding the county apprenticeship coordinators and the federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

g. The development authority shall maintain a registry of all contractors prequalified to bid on school facilities projects. The registry shall include the classification of the bidder and aggregate building limit.

L.2000, c.72, s.60; amended 2007, c.137, s.39.

18A:7G-35 Validity of contractor's prequalification classification.

61. a. A contractor's prequalification classification shall be valid for 24 months. A contractor shall be reclassified after the 24-month period in order to remain eligible to bid on school facilities projects.

b. Any material changes relevant to the prequalification process shall be reported by the contractor to the development authority in writing within 10 days. Based on the information provided, the development authority may change the classification or revoke prequalification for cause.

L.2000, c.72, s.61; amended 2007, c.137, s.40.

18A:7G-36 Mandatory uniform performance evaluation of contractors.

62. a. A mandatory uniform performance evaluation shall be conducted on all school facilities projects undertaken by the development authority. The evaluation shall, at a minimum, include cost, schedule adherence and quality.

b. A contractor shall be notified of a performance evaluation. The contractor shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to an adverse evaluation.

c. The contractor performance evaluations shall be utilized in reviewing bid submissions.

L.2000, c.72, s.62; amended 2007, c.137, s.41.

18A:7G-37 Submission of sworn contractor certification; requirements.

63. a. A prequalified contractor seeking to bid school facilities projects, and any subcontractors required to be named under P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) shall, as a condition of bidding, submit a sworn contractor certification regarding qualifications and credentials.

b. In the contractor certification form, a principal owner or officer of the company shall certify that the firm has the following qualifications and credentials:

(1) A current, valid certificate of registration issued pursuant to "The Public Works Contractor Registration Act," P.L.1999, c.238 (C.34:11-56.48 et seq.), a copy of which shall be attached to the certification form, if applicable;

(2) A current, valid "Certificate of Authority to perform work in New Jersey" issued by the Department of the Treasury, a copy of which shall be attached to the certification form;

(3) Any current, valid contractor or trade license required under applicable New Jersey law for any trade or specialty area in which the firm seeks to perform work, a copy of which shall be attached to the certification;

(4) During the term of construction of the school facilities project, the contractor will have in place a suitable quality control and quality insurance program and an appropriate safety and health plan.

c. The contractor certification form shall further require that a principal owner or officer of the company certify that, at the time that the firm is bidding a project, the amount of its bid proposal and the value of all of its outstanding incomplete contracts does not exceed the firm's existing aggregate rating limit.

L.2000,c.72,s.63.

18A:7G-38 Program to provide additional funding for apprenticeship programs.

64. a. The Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, shall establish a program to provide additional funding for apprenticeship programs registered by the federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training in the United States Department of Labor. There shall be appropriated annually in fiscal year 2001 through fiscal year 2005 the sum of \$3,000,000 to accomplish this purpose.

b. The commissioners of the Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development shall establish guidelines for the distribution of funds under the program, including a provision that requires a majority of the funding to assist

apprenticeship programs in urban areas. The guidelines shall also include a list of those types of entities eligible for funding including, but not limited to, county colleges, county vocational schools, unions and other sponsors of apprenticeship programs deemed appropriate. Eligible entities shall be permitted to use the funding provided pursuant to the program to fund student grants. Pursuant to established guidelines, the commissioners of the Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development shall be responsible for the distribution of funds under the program.

L.2000, c.72, s.64; amended 2007, c.39, s.12.

18A:7G-39 False, deceptive, fraudulent statement by contractor in certifications, penalty.

65. Any contractor who willfully makes, or causes to be made, a false, deceptive or fraudulent statement in the certifications required pursuant to P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), shall be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree and shall be permanently disqualified from bidding on all school facilities projects; and , in the case of an individual or the officer or employee charged with the duty of making the submission for a contractor , he shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

L.2000,c.72,s.65.

18A:7G-40 Prequalified contractors exempt from other prequalifying process.

66. A contractor who has been prequalified as a bidder on school facilities projects in accordance with the process established by the development authority pursuant to section 59 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-33) shall not be required to undergo any other prequalification process to bid on a school facilities project.

L.2000, c.72, s.66; amended 2007, c.137, s.42.

18A:7G-41 Procedure for obtaining prequalified status; short-form application.

68. If a contractor on the effective date of this act has a current, valid classification from the Division of Property Management and Construction, it may obtain prequalified status under this act by submitting a short-form application developed by the authority. A short-form application submitted under this section must include verification of the contractor's current classification and aggregate rating limit by the Division of Property Management and Construction.

Upon such application, the authority shall prequalify the contractor for the same trade or work classification and same aggregate rating limit issued by the Division of Property Management and Construction, provided the authority does not obtain or receive information indicating the contractor has experienced recent performance deficiencies, or otherwise fails to meet the qualification and responsibility standards established by this

act. Prequalification pursuant to this section shall be valid for such time as determined by the authority.

L.2000,c.72,s.68.

18A:7G-41.1 Definitions relative to construction of school facilities projects; competition for contracts.

1. a. As used in this section:

"affiliate" means any firm or person having an overt or covert relationship such that any one of them directly or indirectly controls or has power to control another;

"firm" or "person" means any natural person, association, company, contractor, corporation, joint stock company, limited liability company, partnership, sole proprietorship, or other business entity, including their assignees, lessees, receivers, or trustees.

b. The New Jersey Schools Development Authority shall not restrict the ability of a firm or person that holds a valid classification or a valid prequalification, as applicable, issued by the Division of Property Management and Construction in the Department of the Treasury from competing for contracts or other work in any of the construction categories or trades or specific professional disciplines for which the firm or person holds a classification or prequalification.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the development authority from requiring the prequalification of a firm or person by the development authority in accordance with the provisions of section 59 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-33).

c. Notwithstanding any provision of subsection b. of this section to the contrary, a firm or person or an affiliate thereof shall not serve as a general contractor or as a subcontractor or as a subconsultant on an authority project for which the firm or person serves as the construction manager.

L.2009, c.225, s.1.

18A:7G-42 Registration of apprentices.

69. All apprentices shall be registered through the approved federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training program.

L.2000,c.72,s.69.

18A:7G-43 Office of Fiscal Integrity in School Construction.

70. There is established in the Office of the Attorney General the Office of Fiscal Integrity in School Construction. The office shall perform its duties under the direction of the Attorney General and shall cooperate and coordinate the performance of its duties with the Office of the State Comptroller. The Attorney General or his representative, in cooperation and coordination with the State Comptroller or his representatives, may investigate, examine, and inspect the activities of the authority and districts related to the financing and construction of school facilities and the implementation of the provisions of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.). The Attorney General and the State Comptroller may require the submission of duly verified reports from the authority and districts, which include such information in such form as the Attorney General and the State Comptroller may require. The Attorney General or the State Comptroller or a representative of either, may also consult with the authority on issues and procedures related to the exercise of its duties and responsibilities under P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.). The Legislature shall annually appropriate such funds as may be necessary to finance the operations of the office.

L.2000, c.72, s.70; amended 2005, c.155, s.105; 2007, c.52, s.20.

18A:7G-44 Requirement for "wrap-up insurance coverage."

71. a. In the case of any school facilities project which has a State share of 100%, the development authority may require the use of wrap-up insurance coverage for the project and shall establish the terms and requirements for any such coverage.

b. For any school facilities project which has a State share of less than 100%, the district may elect to purchase wrap-up insurance coverage for the school facilities project. A district may purchase the coverage on its own or may enter into a joint purchasing agreement with one or more other districts to purchase coverage.

c. As used in this section, "wrap-up insurance coverage" means a single insurance and loss control program for all parties involved in the school facilities project, including the owners, administrators, contractors and all tiers of subcontractors, which is controlled and authorized by the owner or financing administrator and applicable to defined construction work sites. Wrap-up insurance coverage may include, but not be limited to, workers' compensation and employers' liability, commercial general liability, umbrella/excess liability, builder's risk, architects' and engineers' errors and omissions, liability, environmental liability, and force majeure.

L.2000, c.72, s.71; amended 2007, c.137, s.43.

18A:7G-45 Conveyance of certain school buildings and land to New Jersey Schools Development Authority; conditions.

14. a. In the event that the development authority funds 100% of the cost of the acquisition of land for the construction of a school facilities project and as a result of the construction of that project a school building located in the district and the land upon which the school building is situate are no longer necessary for educational purposes, title to the land together with the school building on the land shall be conveyed to and shall vest in the New Jersey Schools Development Authority established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-237) when it is determined by the development authority that such conveyance is in the best interest of the development authority. The district shall execute any documents including, but not limited to, a deed of conveyance necessary to accomplish the transfer of title.

b. The development authority may retain or sell the land and buildings on that land acquired pursuant to subsection a. of this section. In the event the development authority elects to sell, it shall use a competitive process. The proceeds of that sale shall be applied to the costs of school facilities projects of the district.

c. The transfer of title pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall occur in accordance with a schedule determined by the development authority. The schedule may provide that the transfer occur prior to the completion of the construction of the new school facilities project if the development authority deems it necessary in order to complete additional school facilities projects within the district.

L.2007, c.137, s.14.

18A:7G-46 Acquisition of land in SDA district; submission of land inventory.

15. If land is necessary to be acquired in connection with a school facilities project in an SDA district, the board of education of the district and the governing body of the municipality in which the district is situate shall jointly submit to the commissioner and to the development authority a complete inventory of all district- and municipal-owned land located in the municipality. The inventory shall include a map of the district showing the location of each of the identified parcels of land. The board of education and the governing body of the municipality shall provide an analysis of why any district- or municipal-owned land is not suitable as a site for a school facilities project identified in the district's long-range facilities plan. The inventory shall be updated as needed in connection with any subsequent school facilities projects for which it is necessary to acquire land.

L.2007, c.137, s.15; amended 2007, c.260, s.48.

18A:7G-47 Approval of site plan in SDA district; procedure.

16. a. Whenever the board of education of an SDA district submits to the New Jersey Schools Development Authority established pursuant to P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.) information on a proposed preferred site for the construction of a school facilities project, the development authority shall file a copy of a map, plan or report indicating the proposed preferred site with the county clerk of the county within which the site is located and with the municipal clerk, planning board, and building inspector of the municipality within which the site is located.

b. Whenever a map, plan, or report indicating a proposed preferred site for the construction of an SDA district school facilities project is filed by the development authority pursuant to subsection a. of this section, any municipal approving authority before granting any site plan approval, building permit, or approval of a subdivision plat, or exercising any other approval power with respect to the development or improvement of any lot, tract, or parcel of land which is located wholly or partially within the proposed preferred site shall refer the site plan, application for a building permit or subdivision plat or any other application for proposed development or improvement to the development authority for review and recommendation as to the effect of the proposed development or improvement upon the construction of the school facilities project.

c. A municipal approving authority shall not issue any site plan approval or building permit or approve a subdivision plat or exercise any other approval power with respect to the development or improvement of the lot, tract, or parcel of land without the recommendation of the development authority until 45 days following referral to the development authority pursuant to subsection b. of this section. Within that 45-day period, the development authority may:

(1) give notice to the municipal approving authority and to the owner of the lot, tract, or parcel of land of probable intention to acquire the whole or any part thereof, and no further action shall be taken by the approving authority for a further period of 180 days following receipt of notice from the development authority. If within the 180-day period the development authority has not acquired, agreed to acquire, or commenced an action to condemn the property, the municipal approving authority shall be free to act upon the pending application in such manner as may be provided by law; or

(2) give notice to the municipal approving authority and to the owner of the lot, tract, or parcel of land that the development authority has no objection to the granting of the permit or approval for which application has been made. Upon receipt of the notice the municipal approving authority shall be free to act upon the pending application in such manner as may be provided by law.

L.2007, c.137, s.16; amended 2007, c.260, s.49.

18A:7G-48 Projects in certain districts with prior approval; construction, financing under prior law.

17. Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.) to the contrary, a school facilities project of a district, other than an Abbott district, with a district aid percentage equal to or greater than 55% or of a district, other than an Abbott district, with a district aid percentage of less than 55% that had been approved by the Commissioner of Education and the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation prior to the effective date of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.) to be constructed by the corporation, shall be constructed and financed in accordance with the provisions of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.) as the same read before the effective date of P.L.2007, c.137 (C.52:18A-235 et al.).

L.2007, c.137, s.17.