



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

August 22, 2008

TO: Chief School Administrators
School Business Administrators

FROM: Lucille E. Davy
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Overview of Grant Program for School Facilities Projects for Regular Operating Districts and Notification of Application Submission Deadline for First Allocation

On July 9, 2008, Governor Corzine signed P.L. 2008, CHAPTER 39 into law making three major changes to the existing "Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act" (EFCFA). The first is the authorization of an additional \$3.9 billion dollars for the state share of approved school facilities projects with \$1 billion, including \$50 million for vocational schools, to be available for Regular Operating District (ROD) school facilities projects in the form of grants. The second is the requirement to establish a priority process for the allocation of the available grant funding based on the determination of critical need in accordance with priority project categories outlined in the law. The third is the requirement for the establishment of a process for the annual allocation of grant funding.

The Department of Education is issuing, through this correspondence, notification that applications for the first ROD grant funding allocation are now being accepted. Applications for this first allocation must be received in the Office of School Facilities no later than November 20, 2008. A second grant allocation has also been scheduled, with applications to be accepted by the Department from November 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009.

The attached documents, which are also available on the Office of School Facilities web page at <http://www.nj.gov/education/facilities>, provide an overview of the new procedures and outline the timelines necessary to implement the changes to EFCFA. The documents explain in detail the ROD Grant Program, including the application process, eligibility, and critical deadlines. Since the previous process for grant funding allocations has changed significantly, including the types of projects to be funded and the submission timelines of school facilities project applications to the Department, it is important that the attached documents be thoroughly reviewed and understood. Projects in vocational school districts must adhere to the same timelines but will be considered separately.

Please contact Bernie Piaia at the Department's Office of School Facilities at (609) 984-2738 or email questions to project_app@doe.state.nj.us, if you need additional information.

c: Executive County Superintendents