



County School Facilities Consortium

2020 Bond: Financial Hardship Proposals

County offices of education face significant facilities funding challenges, in part because they do not have the authority to pass local bonds. COEs directly serve a diverse population of students with specialized needs on a regional basis, including those in special education, community and community day, and court school programs. The School Facility Program and the Financial Hardship Program have been important tools to help COEs address their facilities needs.

For a new state school bond, the County School Facilities Consortium (CSFC) recommends inclusion of the following Financial Hardship policies:

Existing Policies

- Retain qualification for Financial Hardship based on status as a county office of education.
- Retain concurrent review of Financial Hardship status request and funding application. This is currently governed by regulation.

New/Amended Policies

- Extend the Financial Hardship status approval from 6 months to 12 months, to better align with a 12-month fiscal year.
- Provide a reservation of bond authority for Financial Hardship projects that receive a design apportionment, to ensure construction funds will be available once the project is designed.
- Adjust the treatment of savings for Financial Hardship projects. Options include:
 - o Allow the district/COE to retain savings for use on other high-priority capital outlay projects.
 - o If required to return savings, then the district/COE should receive a proportional return of eligibility.