



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

KEVIN DEHMER
Commissioner

July 17, 2025

Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent
Hunterdon County
Readington Township School District No.5180
52 Readington Road
Whitehouse Station, New Jersey 08889

RE: DEBT SERVICE AID REQUEST

Title: PRELIMINARY ELIGIBLE COST: (PEC) DETERMINATION OF A SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECT FOR A DISTRICT NOT REQUIRED TO USE THE AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5 AND DETERMINATION OF PRELIMINARY ELIGIBLE COSTS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7.

THIS PROJECT DOES IMPACT EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY AND IS SUBJECT TO DOE FINAL EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY REVIEW.

Whitehouse School

State Project No. 4350-070-25-2000

Description: Replace The Classroom Cubbies

A NOVEMBER 2025 REFERENDUM IS PLANNED

Dear Dr. Hart:

Your district has submitted an application for a school facilities project pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 ("EFCFA" or "Act") and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. ("Regulations"). This project application has been deemed complete by the New Jersey Department of Education-Office of School Facility ("Department"), has been reviewed under the Act and the Regulations, and, as a result, the Department now makes the following defeminations regarding the above referenced project.

July 17, 2025

I. Department determinations:

1. This school facilities project qualifies as a school facilities project eligible for State support under the Act.
Yes ☒ No ☐
2. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's approved long-range facilities plan ("LRFP") as approved or as amended.
Yes ☒ No ☐
3. This school facilities project meets the educational adequacy requirements.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
4. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's applicable approved programmatic model contained in the District's approved LRFP, if any, or with the facilities efficiency standard ("FES") and the area allowances per FTE student, and does not exceed the model or the FES, as applicable, except for spaces for which the District is not seeking State support.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
5. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as new construction because it is needed for ☐ unhoused students or for ☐ another educational adequacy purpose*.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
6. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as rehabilitation as it is required to keep the school facilities functional for its original purposes or for new purposes but does not increase the gross square footage of the school facility and does not include any routine maintenance or required maintenance but may include capital maintenance.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
7. This school facilities project may be subject to the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement requirements of Executive Order 215.
8. This school facilities project is a new school, and therefore must incorporate the guidelines developed by the United States Green Building Council known as "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design ("LEED"), Version 2."
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
9. This school facilities project has been determined to be an Emergent Project by the County Superintendent.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

July 17, 2025

II. Description of the approved school facilities project

The approved school facilities project consists of the following components:

- **Replace the classroom Cubbies,**

Building System	Impacted Systems (X)	Description
General Conditions	X	
Alterations	X	
Soft Costs	X	

July 17, 2025

III. Preliminary eligible costs ("PEC") for the approved school facilities project:

The District's aid percentage as defined in section 3 of the Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-3 is 0.0000 % and State share will be equal to 100% of that percentage, except that it will not be less than 40% of final eligible costs.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7 the following is the PEC for the approved school facilities project:

PEC Calculations:

Preliminary Eligible Cost Calculations for SP#: 43550-070-25-2000				Whitehouse School		
	Functional Capacity (FC)	Projected Enrollment (PE)	Unhoused Students (UH)	Area Allowance / FTE Student (AA)	****Maximum or Actual Gross Square Footage (GSF)	Preliminary Eligible Cost (PEC)
*New Construction	0	0	0	0.00	Max: 0	\$ -
					Actual:	\$ -
Other Eligible Costs for Educational Adequacy (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$ -
**Rehabilitation						\$ 121,300.00
TOTAL PEC						\$ 121,300.00
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$ -
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on estimated actual cost for rehabilitation)						\$ -
TOTAL Ineligible Excess Costs						\$ -
Total Project Cost						\$ 121,300.00
*New construction costs are calculated using \$143.00 per square foot times the GSF.						
**The rehabilitation costs are compiled from the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project.						
FY 25 DAP =		0.0000%		or 40% whichever is greater.		40.0000%
***The preliminary eligible costs for new construction will be calculated based on the maximum allowable additional gross square footage or the actual gross square footage, whichever is smaller. The final eligible costs may not equal preliminary eligible costs, pursuant to the district's right to appeal preliminary eligible costs under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6. A change in final eligible costs will mean a change in State and local share of those costs.						

- Rehabilitation costs are based on the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project. These costs have been reviewed and approved by the Department.

July 17, 2025

IV. Actions to be taken

A. Introduction: If a district constructs the school facilities project, the district will receive State support in the form of State debt service aid (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9). The district also has options on whether to accept or appeal the Department's determinations of space eligible for State support and PEC. Further, the district will need to take certain actions depending on whether the project is subject to educational adequacy requirements. **Please note that the above review is limited to the spaces in the approved programmatic model for the above-referenced school facilities project.**

B. District elected options: Thirty (30) days from the date of this PEC letter, the Department will issue a FEC letter with "debt service" as the State funding source. If the District does not agree with these elections, they must notify the Department prior to this action.

The following information is only for non- acceptance of the PEC elections.

The District has the option to defer the acceptance of the PEC **only on new construction** (related to \$143/sf). If the District chooses to defer a decision they must develop detailed plans and specifications by a design professional. At this time the District may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department for an increase in PEC (based on \$143/sf) in an amount not to exceed 10% of the PEC, if such plans indicate that the cost of constructing the approved school facilities project exceeds the PEC as determined by the Commissioner.

C. Educational adequacy and Uniform Construction Code review. If the other capital project **does not require** final educational adequacy review, the district is not required to make a final educational adequacy submission to the Department or pay the Department final educational adequacy review fees. **The district may advance the project, including review for Uniform Construction Code ("UCC") compliance as required to the local municipal code enforcing agency. If the local code enforcement agency declines to perform the plan review or is not classified at the appropriate level for the project in question, then the project may go to an appropriately classified local code enforcement agency or to the Department of Community Affairs. Because of added security requirements, plans and specifications for the construction of new schools will continue to be reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs.**

If this project **requires** final educational adequacy review, the district needs to apply to the Department for such review, and submit the total review fees, in the amount as determined under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.5, \$ 500.00, to the Department prior to proceeding with review of its construction documents for UCC conformance.

Note: The district must demonstrate to the Department that extraordinary circumstances require an award of the entire approval project scope in separate phases.

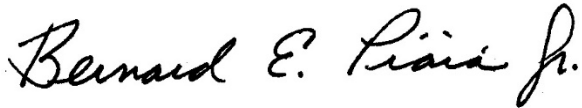
July 17, 2025

D. Executive Order 215. School facilities projects meeting certain State assistance percentage (at least 20% of total project costs) and cost thresholds (total construction costs in excess of \$ 1 million) and not otherwise exempted (exemptions include rehabilitation and new construction not increasing the building's capacity by more than 25 percent) are required to comply with E.O. 215, including the preparation and submission of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement as applicable, prior to site preparation and/or construction activity.

E. Final eligible costs and local support. A district may not seek approval of the local support (e.g., school bonds, lease purchase, etc.) for the school facilities project until the Department has notified the district of the FEC for the project. Also, no school facilities project may be constructed unless, if there is a local support amount, such local support has received approval as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.7. However, a district may seek approval of the estimated local share in its annual budget prior to a defemination of FEC, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, contact Anthony Brun by email at tony.brun@doe.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Bernard E. Piaia, Jr.
Director, Office of School Facility Projects

BEP:ab

c: Amanda Schultz, Executive Director, Division of Finance and Business Services
Juan Torres, Executive Hunterdon County Superintendent
Jason Bohm Readington Township School District Business Administrator
Kevin Settembrino, Settembrino Architets
Frank Ladvas, Planning Associate, Division of Finance
Anthony Brun, Office of School Facility Projects



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THIS PROJECT DOES IMPACT EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY AND IS SUBJECT TO DOE FINAL EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY REVIEW.

Readington Middle School

State Project No. 4350-050-25-2000

Description: Media Center Renovations

A NOVEMBER 2025 REFERENDUM IS PLANNED

Dear Dr. Hart:

Your district has submitted an application for a school facilities project pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 ("EFCFA" or "Act") and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. ("Regulations"). This project application has been deemed complete by the New Jersey Department of Education-Office of School Facility ("Department"), has been reviewed under the Act and the Regulations, and, as a result, the Department now makes the following defeminations regarding the above referenced project.

July 17, 2025

I. Department determinations:

1. This school facilities project qualifies as a school facilities project eligible for State support under the Act.
Yes ☒ No ☐
2. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's approved long-range facilities plan ("LRFP") as approved or as amended.
Yes ☒ No ☐
3. This school facilities project meets the educational adequacy requirements.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
4. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's applicable approved programmatic model contained in the District's approved LRFP, if any, or with the facilities efficiency standard ("FES") and the area allowances per FTE student, and does not exceed the model or the FES, as applicable, except for spaces for which the District is not seeking State support.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
5. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as new construction because it is needed for ☐ unhoused students or for ☐ another educational adequacy purpose*.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
6. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as rehabilitation as it is required to keep the school facilities functional for its original purposes or for new purposes but does not increase the gross square footage of the school facility and does not include any routine maintenance or required maintenance but may include capital maintenance.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
7. This school facilities project may be subject to the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement requirements of Executive Order 215.
8. This school facilities project is a new school, and therefore must incorporate the guidelines developed by the United States Green Building Council known as "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design ("LEED"), Version 2."
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
9. This school facilities project has been determined to be an Emergent Project by the County Superintendent.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

July 17, 2025

II. Description of the approved school facilities project

The approved school facilities project consists of the following components:

- **Media Center renovations,**

Building System	Impacted Systems (X)	Description
General Conditions	X	
Alterations	X	
Soft Costs	X	

III. Preliminary eligible costs ("PEC") for the approved school facilities project:

The District's aid percentage as defined in section 3 of the Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-3 is 0.0000 % and State share will be equal to 100% of that percentage, except that it will not be less than 40% of final eligible costs.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7 the following is the PEC for the approved school facilities project:

PEC Calculations:

Preliminary Eligible Cost Calculations for SP#:					43550-050-25-2000	Readington Middle School	
	Functional Capacity (FC)	Projected Enrollment (PE)	Unhoused Students (UH)	Area Allowance / FTE Student (AA)	****Maximum or Actual Gross Square Footage (GSF)	Preliminary Eligible Cost (PEC)	
*New Construction	0	0	0	0.00	Max: 0	\$	-
					Actual:	\$	-
Other Eligible Costs for Educational Adequacy (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-
**Rehabilitation						\$	350,000.00
TOTAL PEC						\$	350,000.00
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on estimated actual cost for rehabilitation)						\$	-
TOTAL Ineligible Excess Costs						\$	-
Total Project Cost						\$	350,000.00
*New construction costs are calculated using \$143.00 per square foot times the GSF.							
**The rehabilitation costs are compiled from the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project.							
FY 25 DAP =		0.0000%			or 40% whichever is greater.		40.0000%
***The preliminary eligible costs for new construction will be calculated based on the maximum allowable additional gross square footage or the actual gross square footage, whichever is smaller. The final eligible costs may not equal preliminary eligible costs, pursuant to the district's right to appeal preliminary eligible costs under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6. A change in final eligible costs will mean a change in State and local share of those costs.							

- a. Rehabilitation costs are based on the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project. These costs have been reviewed and approved by the Department.

July 17, 2025

IV. Actions to be taken

A. Introduction: If a district constructs the school facilities project, the district will receive State support in the form of State debt service aid (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9). The district also has options on whether to accept or appeal the Department's determinations of space eligible for State support and PEC. Further, the district will need to take certain actions depending on whether the project is subject to educational adequacy requirements. **Please note that the above review is limited to the spaces in the approved programmatic model for the above-referenced school facilities project.**

B. District elected options: Thirty (30) days from the date of this PEC letter, the Department will issue a FEC letter with "debt service" as the State funding source. If the District does not agree with these elections, they must notify the Department prior to this action.

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C. Educational adequacy and Uniform Construction Code review. If the other capital project **does not require** final educational adequacy review, the district is not required to make a final educational adequacy submission to the Department or pay the Department final educational adequacy review fees. **The district may advance the project, including review for Uniform Construction Code ("UCC") compliance as required to the local municipal code enforcing agency. If the local code enforcement agency declines to perform the plan review or is not classified at the appropriate level for the project in question, then the project may go to an appropriately classified local code enforcement agency or to the Department of Community Affairs. Because of added security requirements, plans and specifications for the construction of new schools will continue to be reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs.**

If this project **requires** final educational adequacy review, the district needs to apply to the Department for such review, and submit the total review fees, in the amount as determined under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.5, § 1,412.67, to the Department prior to proceeding with review of its construction documents for UCC conformance.

Note: The district must demonstrate to the Department that extraordinary circumstances require an award of the entire approval project scope in separate phases.

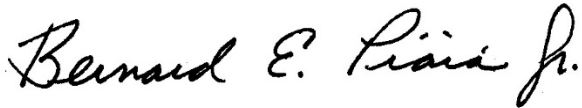
July 17, 2025

D. Executive Order 215. School facilities projects meeting certain State assistance percentage (at least 20% of total project costs) and cost thresholds (total construction costs in excess of \$ 1 million) and not otherwise exempted (exemptions include rehabilitation and new construction not increasing the building's capacity by more than 25 percent) are required to comply with E.O. 215, including the preparation and submission of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement as applicable, prior to site preparation and/or construction activity.

E. Final eligible costs and local support. A district may not seek approval of the local support (e.g., school bonds, lease purchase, etc.) for the school facilities project until the Department has notified the district of the FEC for the project. Also, no school facilities project may be constructed unless, if there is a local support amount, such local support has received approval as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.7. However, a district may seek approval of the estimated local share in its annual budget prior to a determination of FEC, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, contact Anthony Brun by email at tony.brun@doe.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Bernard E. Piaia, Jr.
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July 22, 2025

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Hunterdon County
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52 Readington Road
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RE: DEBT SERVICE AID REQUEST

Title: REVISED PRELIMINARY ELIGIBLE COST: (PEC) DETERMINATION OF A SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECT FOR A DISTRICT NOT REQUIRED TO USE THE AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5 AND DETERMINATION OF PRELIMINARY ELIGIBLE COSTS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7.

THIS PROJECT DOES NOT IMPACT EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO DOE FINAL EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY REVIEW.

Whitehouse School

State Project No. 4350-070-25-1000

Description: System Improvements

A NOVEMBER 2025 REFERENDUM IS PLANNED

Dear Dr. Hart:

Your district has submitted an application for a school facilities project pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 ("EFCFA" or "Act") and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. ("Regulations"). This project application has been deemed complete by the New Jersey Department of Education-Office of School Facility ("Department"), has been reviewed under the Act and the Regulations, and, as a result, the Department now makes the following defeminations regarding the above referenced project.

July 22, 2025

I. Department determinations:

1. This school facilities project qualifies as a school facilities project eligible for State support under the Act.
Yes ☒ No ☐
2. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's approved long-range facilities plan ("LRFP") as approved or as amended.
Yes ☒ No ☐
3. This school facilities project meets the educational adequacy requirements.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
4. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's applicable approved programmatic model contained in the District's approved LRFP, if any, or with the facilities efficiency standard ("FES") and the area allowances per FTE student, and does not exceed the model or the FES, as applicable, except for spaces for which the District is not seeking State support.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
5. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as new construction because it is needed for ☐ unhoused students or for ☐ another educational adequacy purpose*.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
6. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as rehabilitation as it is required to keep the school facilities functional for its original purposes or for new purposes but does not increase the gross square footage of the school facility and does not include any routine maintenance or required maintenance but may include capital maintenance.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
7. This school facilities project may be subject to the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement requirements of Executive Order 215.
8. This school facilities project is a new school, and therefore must incorporate the guidelines developed by the United States Green Building Council known as "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design ("LEED"), Version 2."
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
9. This school facilities project has been determined to be an Emergent Project by the County Superintendent.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

July 22, 2025

II. Description of the approved school facilities project

Eligible

- Replace the fire alarm system,
- Replace the existing roof at the gymnasium, classrooms, and media center,
- Replace the HVAC, unit ventilators, Airedales, and roof-top units,
- Install integrated building management system (BMS) for mechanical equipment,
- Repave the existing playground areas and sidewalks,
- Replace the exterior, corridor, and fire,
- Install new emergency backup generator,
- Install exterior lighting in parking lots and at building,
- Replace playground with accessible playground,

Ineligible

- Install new Replace the interactive whiteboards in the classrooms
- Install new window treatments,

Building System	Impacted Systems (X)	Description
General Conditions	X	
Site Improvements	X	
Exterior Closure	X	
Interior Construction	X	
HVAC	X	
Electrical Distribution	X	
Communications	X	
FF & E > 10 years	X	
Soft Costs	X	

July 22, 2025

III. Preliminary eligible costs ("PEC") for the approved school facilities project:

The District's aid percentage as defined in section 3 of the Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-3 is **0.0000** % and State share will be equal to 100% of that percentage, except that it will not be less than 40% of final eligible costs.

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PEC Calculations:

Preliminary Eligible Cost Calculations for SP#:					43550-070-25-1000		Whitehouse School	
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*New Construction	0	0	0	0.00	Max: 0	\$	-	
					Actual:	\$	-	
Other Eligible Costs for Educational Adequacy (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-	
**Rehabilitation						\$	8,461,624.00	
TOTAL PEC						\$	8,461,624.00	
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-	
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on estimated actual cost for rehabilitation)						\$	404,200.00	
TOTAL Ineligible Excess Costs						\$	404,200.00	
Total Project Cost						\$	8,865,824.00	
<i>*New construction costs are calculated using \$143.00 per square foot times the GSF.</i>								
<i>**The rehabilitation costs are compiled from the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project.</i>								
FY 25 DAP =		0.0000%			or 40% whichever is greater.		40.0000%	
<i>***The preliminary eligible costs for new construction will be calculated based on the maximum allowable additional gross square footage or the actual gross square footage, whichever is smaller. The final eligible costs may not equal preliminary eligible costs, pursuant to the district's right to appeal preliminary eligible costs under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6. A change in final eligible costs will mean a change in State and local share of those costs.</i>								

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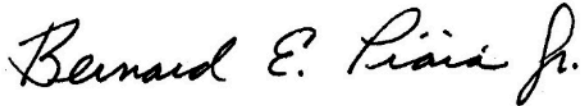
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

KEVIN DEHMER
Commissioner

July 17, 2025

Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent
Hunterdon County
Readington Township School District No.5180
52 Readington Road
Whitehouse Station, New Jersey 08889

RE: DEBT SERVICE AID REQUEST

Title: PRELIMINARY ELIGIBLE COST: (PEC) DETERMINATION OF A SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECT FOR A DISTRICT NOT REQUIRED TO USE THE AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5 AND DETERMINATION OF PRELIMINARY ELIGIBLE COSTS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7.

THIS PROJECT DOES IMPACT EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY AND IS SUBJECT TO DOE FINAL EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY REVIEW.

Three Bridges School

State Project No. 4350-060-25-2000

Description: Replace The Classroom Cubbies

A NOVEMBER 2025 REFERENDUM IS PLANNED

Dear Dr. Hart:

Your district has submitted an application for a school facilities project pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 ("EFCFA" or "Act") and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. ("Regulations"). This project application has been deemed complete by the New Jersey Department of Education-Office of School Facility ("Department"), has been reviewed under the Act and the Regulations, and, as a result, the Department now makes the following defeminations regarding the above referenced project.

July 17, 2025

I. Department determinations:

1. This school facilities project qualifies as a school facilities project eligible for State support under the Act.
Yes ☒ No ☐
2. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's approved long-range facilities plan ("LRFP") as approved or as amended.
Yes ☒ No ☐
3. This school facilities project meets the educational adequacy requirements.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
4. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's applicable approved programmatic model contained in the District's approved LRFP, if any, or with the facilities efficiency standard ("FES") and the area allowances per FTE student, and does not exceed the model or the FES, as applicable, except for spaces for which the District is not seeking State support.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
5. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as new construction because it is needed for ☐ unhoused students or for ☐ another educational adequacy purpose*.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
6. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as rehabilitation as it is required to keep the school facilities functional for its original purposes or for new purposes but does not increase the gross square footage of the school facility and does not include any routine maintenance or required maintenance but may include capital maintenance.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
7. This school facilities project may be subject to the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement requirements of Executive Order 215.
8. This school facilities project is a new school, and therefore must incorporate the guidelines developed by the United States Green Building Council known as "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design ("LEED"), Version 2."
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
9. This school facilities project has been determined to be an Emergent Project by the County Superintendent.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

II. Description of the approved school facilities project

The approved school facilities project consists of the following components:

- **Replace the classroom Cubbies,**

Building System	Impacted Systems (X)	Description
General Conditions	X	
Alterations	X	
Soft Costs	X	

III. Preliminary eligible costs ("PEC") for the approved school facilities project:

The District's aid percentage as defined in section 3 of the Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-3 is 0.0000 % and State share will be equal to 100% of that percentage, except that it will not be less than 40% of final eligible costs.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7 the following is the PEC for the approved school facilities project:

PEC Calculations:

Preliminary Eligible Cost Calculations for SP#:					43550-060-25-2000	Three Bridges School	
	Functional Capacity (FC)	Projected Enrollment (PE)	Unhoused Students (UH)	Area Allowance / FTE Student (AA)	****Maximum or Actual Gross Square Footage (GSF)	Preliminary Eligible Cost (PEC)	
*New Construction	0	0	0	0.00	Max: 0	\$	-
					Actual:	\$	-
Other Eligible Costs for Educational Adequacy (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-
**Rehabilitation						\$	121,300.00
TOTAL PEC						\$	121,300.00
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on estimated actual cost for rehabilitation)						\$	-
TOTAL Ineligible Excess Costs						\$	-
Total Project Cost						\$	121,300.00
*New construction costs are calculated using \$143.00 per square foot times the GSF.							
**The rehabilitation costs are compiled from the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project.							
FY 25 DAP =		0.0000%			or 40% whichever is greater.		40.0000%
***The preliminary eligible costs for new construction will be calculated based on the maximum allowable additional gross square footage or the actual gross square footage, whichever is smaller. The final eligible costs may not equal preliminary eligible costs, pursuant to the district's right to appeal preliminary eligible costs under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6. A change in final eligible costs will mean a change in State and local share of those costs.							

- Rehabilitation costs are based on the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project. These costs have been reviewed and approved by the Department.

IV. Actions to be taken

A. Introduction: If a district constructs the school facilities project, the district will receive State support in the form of State debt service aid (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9). The district also has options on whether to accept or appeal the Department's determinations of space eligible for State support and PEC. Further, the district will need to take certain actions depending on whether the project is subject to educational adequacy requirements. **Please note that the above review is limited to the spaces in the approved programmatic model for the above-referenced school facilities project.**

B. District elected options: Thirty (30) days from the date of this PEC letter, the Department will issue a FEC letter with "debt service" as the State funding source. If the District does not agree with these elections, they must notify the Department prior to this action.

The following information is only for non- acceptance of the PEC elections.

The District has the option to defer the acceptance of the PEC **only on new construction** (related to \$143/sf). If the District chooses to defer a decision they must develop detailed plans and specifications by a design professional. At this time the District may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department for an increase in PEC (based on \$143/sf) in an amount not to exceed 10% of the PEC, if such plans indicate that the cost of constructing the approved school facilities project exceeds the PEC as determined by the Commissioner.

C. Educational adequacy and Uniform Construction Code review. If the other capital project **does not require** final educational adequacy review, the district is not required to make a final educational adequacy submission to the Department or pay the Department final educational adequacy review fees. **The district may advance the project, including review for Uniform Construction Code ("UCC") compliance as required to the local municipal code enforcing agency. If the local code enforcement agency declines to perform the plan review or is not classified at the appropriate level for the project in question, then the project may go to an appropriately classified local code enforcement agency or to the Department of Community Affairs. Because of added security requirements, plans and specifications for the construction of new schools will continue to be reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs.**

If this project **requires** final educational adequacy review, the district needs to apply to the Department for such review, and submit the total review fees, in the amount as determined under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.5, \$ 500.00, to the Department prior to proceeding with review of its construction documents for UCC conformance.

Note: The district must demonstrate to the Department that extraordinary circumstances require an award of the entire approval project scope in separate phases.

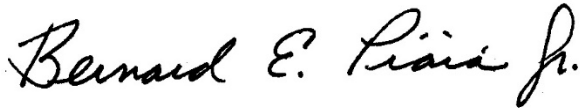
July 17, 2025

D. Executive Order 215. School facilities projects meeting certain State assistance percentage (at least 20% of total project costs) and cost thresholds (total construction costs in excess of \$ 1 million) and not otherwise exempted (exemptions include rehabilitation and new construction not increasing the building's capacity by more than 25 percent) are required to comply with E.O. 215, including the preparation and submission of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement as applicable, prior to site preparation and/or construction activity.

E. Final eligible costs and local support. A district may not seek approval of the local support (e.g., school bonds, lease purchase, etc.) for the school facilities project until the Department has notified the district of the FEC for the project. Also, no school facilities project may be constructed unless, if there is a local support amount, such local support has received approval as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.7. However, a district may seek approval of the estimated local share in its annual budget prior to a defemination of FEC, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, contact Anthony Brun by email at tony.brun@doe.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Bernard E. Piaia, Jr.
Director, Office of School Facility Projects

BEP:ab

c: Amanda Schultz, Executive Director, Division of Finance and Business Services
Juan Torres, Executive Hunterdon County Superintendent
Jason Bohm Readington Township School District Business Administrator
Kevin Settembrino, Settembrino Architets
Frank Ladvas, Planning Associate, Division of Finance
Anthony Brun, Office of School Facility Projects



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THIS PROJECT DOES NOT IMPACT EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO DOE FINAL EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY REVIEW.

Readington Middle School

State Project No. 4350-050-25-1000

Description: System Improvements

A NOVEMBER 2025 REFERENDUM IS PLANNED

Dear Dr. Hart:

Your district has submitted an application for a school facilities project pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 ("EFCFA" or "Act") and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. ("Regulations"). This project application has been deemed complete by the New Jersey Department of Education-Office of School Facility ("Department"), has been reviewed under the Act and the Regulations, and, as a result, the Department now makes the following defeminations regarding the above referenced project.

July 16, 2025

I. Department determinations:

1. This school facilities project qualifies as a school facilities project eligible for State support under the Act.
Yes ☒ No ☐
2. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's approved long-range facilities plan ("LRFP") as approved or as amended.
Yes ☒ No ☐
3. This school facilities project meets the educational adequacy requirements.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
4. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's applicable approved programmatic model contained in the District's approved LRFP, if any, or with the facilities efficiency standard ("FES") and the area allowances per FTE student, and does not exceed the model or the FES, as applicable, except for spaces for which the District is not seeking State support.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
5. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as new construction because it is needed for ☐ unhoused students or for ☐ another educational adequacy purpose*.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
6. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as rehabilitation as it is required to keep the school facilities functional for its original purposes or for new purposes but does not increase the gross square footage of the school facility and does not include any routine maintenance or required maintenance but may include capital maintenance.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
7. This school facilities project may be subject to the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement requirements of Executive Order 215.
8. This school facilities project is a new school, and therefore must incorporate the guidelines developed by the United States Green Building Council known as "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design ("LEED"), Version 2."
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
9. This school facilities project has been determined to be an Emergent Project by the County Superintendent.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

II. Description of the approved school facilities project

The approved school facilities project consists of the following components:

Eligible

- **Replace the existing Federal Pacific electrical service equipment,**
- **Replace the fire alarm system,**
- **Replace the roof at the front gymnasium and 400 classroom wing,**
- **Replace boilers at new wing;**
- **Replace HVAC unit ventilators and roof top units,**
- **Install integrated building management system (BMS) for mechanical equipment,**
- **Repave the existing playground areas, basketball courts, parking lots and drives,**
- **Replace the existing PA system,**
- **Re-key locksets interior and exterior doors,**
- **Install a new emergency backup generator,**
- **Renovate the athletic fields,**

Ineligible

- **New classroom furniture,**
- **Install new window treatments,**

Building System	Impacted Systems (X)	Description
General Conditions	X	
Site Improvements	X	
Exterior Closure	X	
Interior Construction	X	
Plumbing	X	
HVAC	X	
Electrical Distribution	X	
Communications	X	
FF & E > 10 years	X	
Soft Costs	X	

III. Preliminary eligible costs ("PEC") for the approved school facilities project:

The District's aid percentage as defined in section 3 of the Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-3 is 0.0000 % and State share will be equal to 100% of that percentage, except that it will not be less than 40% of final eligible costs.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7 the following is the PEC for the approved school facilities project:

PEC Calculations:

Preliminary Eligible Cost Calculations for SP#:					43550-050-25-1000	Readington Middle School	
	Functional Capacity (FC)	Projected Enrollment (PE)	Unhoused Students (UH)	Area Allowance / FTE Student (AA)	****Maximum or Actual Gross Square Footage (GSF)	Preliminary Eligible Cost (PEC)	
*New Construction	0	0	0	0.00	Max: 0	\$	-
					Actual:	\$	-
Other Eligible Costs for Educational Adequacy (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-
**Rehabilitation						\$	11,823,247.00
TOTAL PEC						\$	11,823,247.00
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on estimated actual cost for rehabilitation)						\$	540,000.00
TOTAL Ineligible Excess Costs						\$	540,000.00
Total Project Cost						\$	12,363,247.00
*New construction costs are calculated using \$143.00 per square foot times the GSF.							
**The rehabilitation costs are compiled from the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project.							
FY 25 DAP =		0.0000%			or 40% whichever is greater.		40.0000%
***The preliminary eligible costs for new construction will be calculated based on the maximum allowable additional gross square footage or the actual gross square footage, whichever is smaller. The final eligible costs may not equal preliminary eligible costs, pursuant to the district's right to appeal preliminary eligible costs under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6. A change in final eligible costs will mean a change in State and local share of those costs.							

- a. Rehabilitation costs are based on the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project. These costs have been reviewed and approved by the Department.

July 16, 2025

IV. Actions to be taken

A. Introduction: If a district constructs the school facilities project, the district will receive State support in the form of State debt service aid (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9). The district also has options on whether to accept or appeal the Department's determinations of space eligible for State support and PEC. Further, the district will need to take certain actions depending on whether the project is subject to educational adequacy requirements. **Please note that the above review is limited to the spaces in the approved programmatic model for the above-referenced school facilities project.**

B. District elected options: Thirty (30) days from the date of this PEC letter, the Department will issue a FEC letter with "debt service" as the State funding source. If the District does not agree with these elections, they must notify the Department prior to this action.

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C. Educational adequacy and Uniform Construction Code review. If the other capital project **does not require** final educational adequacy review, the district is not required to make a final educational adequacy submission to the Department or pay the Department final educational adequacy review fees. **The district may advance the project, including review for Uniform Construction Code ("UCC") compliance as required to the local municipal code enforcing agency. If the local code enforcement agency declines to perform the plan review or is not classified at the appropriate level for the project in question, then the project may go to an appropriately classified local code enforcement agency or to the Department of Community Affairs. Because of added security requirements, plans and specifications for the construction of new schools will continue to be reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs.**

Note: The district must demonstrate to the Department that extraordinary circumstances require an award of the entire approval project scope in separate phases.

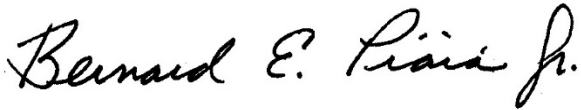
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D. Executive Order 215. School facilities projects meeting certain State assistance percentage (at least 20% of total project costs) and cost thresholds (total construction costs in excess of \$ 1 million) and not otherwise exempted (exemptions include rehabilitation and new construction not increasing the building's capacity by more than 25 percent) are required to comply with E.O. 215, including the preparation and submission of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement as applicable, prior to site preparation and/or construction activity.

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THIS PROJECT DOES IMPACT EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY AND IS SUBJECT TO DOE FINAL EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY REVIEW.

Holland Brook School

State Project No. 4350-030-25-2000

Description: Special Education Classroom Conversion

A NOVEMBER 2025 REFERENDUM IS PLANNED

Dear Dr. Hart:

Your district has submitted an application for a school facilities project pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 ("EFCFA" or "Act") and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. ("Regulations"). This project application has been deemed complete by the New Jersey Department of Education-Office of School Facility ("Department"), has been reviewed under the Act and the Regulations, and, as a result, the Department now makes the following defeminations regarding the above referenced project.

July 16, 2025

I. Department determinations:

1. This school facilities project qualifies as a school facilities project eligible for State support under the Act.
Yes ☒ No ☐
2. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's approved long-range facilities plan ("LRFP") as approved or as amended.
Yes ☒ No ☐
3. This school facilities project meets the educational adequacy requirements.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
4. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's applicable approved programmatic model contained in the District's approved LRFP, if any, or with the facilities efficiency standard ("FES") and the area allowances per FTE student, and does not exceed the model or the FES, as applicable, except for spaces for which the District is not seeking State support.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
5. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as new construction because it is needed for ☐ unhoused students or for ☐ another educational adequacy purpose*.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
6. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as rehabilitation as it is required to keep the school facilities functional for its original purposes or for new purposes but does not increase the gross square footage of the school facility and does not include any routine maintenance or required maintenance but may include capital maintenance.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
7. This school facilities project may be subject to the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement requirements of Executive Order 215.
8. This school facilities project is a new school, and therefore must incorporate the guidelines developed by the United States Green Building Council known as "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design ("LEED"), Version 2."
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
9. This school facilities project has been determined to be an Emergent Project by the County Superintendent.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

July 16, 2025

II. Description of the approved school facilities project

The approved school facilities project consists of the following components:

- **Convert a Special Education classroom into a Life Skills classroom,**

Building System	Impacted Systems (X)	Description
General Conditions	X	
Alterations	X	
Soft Costs	X	

III. Preliminary eligible costs ("PEC") for the approved school facilities project:

The District's aid percentage as defined in section 3 of the Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-3 is 0.0000 % and State share will be equal to 100% of that percentage, except that it will not be less than 40% of final eligible costs.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7 the following is the PEC for the approved school facilities project:

PEC Calculations:

Preliminary Eligible Cost Calculations for SP#:				4350-030-25-2000	Holland Brook School	
	Functional Capacity (FC)	Projected Enrollment (PE)	Unhoused Students (UH)	Area Allowance / FTE Student (AA)	****Maximum or Actual Gross Square Footage (GSF)	Preliminary Eligible Cost (PEC)
*New Construction	0	0	0	0.00	Max: 0	\$ -
					Actual:	\$ -
Other Eligible Costs for Educational Adequacy (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$ -
**Rehabilitation						\$ 121,300.00
TOTAL PEC						\$ 121,300.00
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$ -
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on estimated actual cost for rehabilitation)						\$ -
TOTAL Ineligible Excess Costs						\$ -
Total Project Cost						\$ 121,300.00
*New construction costs are calculated using \$143.00 per square foot times the GSF.						
**The rehabilitation costs are compiled from the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project.						
FY 25 DAP =		0.0000%			or 40% whichever is greater.	40.0000%
***The preliminary eligible costs for new construction will be calculated based on the maximum allowable additional gross square footage or the actual gross square footage, whichever is smaller. The final eligible costs may not equal preliminary eligible costs, pursuant to the district's right to appeal preliminary eligible costs under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6. A change in final eligible costs will mean a change in State and local share of those costs.						

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July 16, 2025

IV. Actions to be taken

A. Introduction: If a district constructs the school facilities project, the district will receive State support in the form of State debt service aid (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9). The district also has options on whether to accept or appeal the Department's determinations of space eligible for State support and PEC. Further, the district will need to take certain actions depending on whether the project is subject to educational adequacy requirements. **Please note that the above review is limited to the spaces in the approved programmatic model for the above-referenced school facilities project.**

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Note: The district must demonstrate to the Department that extraordinary circumstances require an award of the entire approval project scope in separate phases.

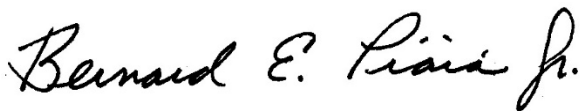
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Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY

Lt. Governor

KEVIN DEHMER

Commissioner

July 16, 2025

Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent
Hunterdon County
Readington Township School District No.5180
52 Readington Road
Whitehouse Station, New Jersey 08889

RE: DEBT SERVICE AID REQUEST

Title: PRELIMINARY ELIGIBLE COST: (PEC) DETERMINATION OF A SCHOOL FACILITIES PROJECT FOR A DISTRICT NOT REQUIRED TO USE THE AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5 AND DETERMINATION OF PRELIMINARY ELIGIBLE COSTS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7.

THIS PROJECT DOES NOT IMPACT EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO DOE FINAL EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY REVIEW.

Holland Brook School

State Project No. 4350-030-25-1000

Description: System Improvements

A NOVEMBER 2025 REFERENDUM IS PLANNED

Dear Dr. Hart:

Your district has submitted an application for a school facilities project pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 ("EFCFA" or "Act") and the New Jersey Department of Education implementing regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. ("Regulations"). This project application has been deemed complete by the New Jersey Department of Education-Office of School Facility ("Department"), has been reviewed under the Act and the Regulations, and, as a result, the Department now makes the following defeminations regarding the above referenced project.

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I. Department determinations:

1. This school facilities project qualifies as a school facilities project eligible for State support under the Act.
Yes ☒ No ☐
2. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's approved long-range facilities plan ("LRFP") as approved or as amended.
Yes ☒ No ☐
3. This school facilities project meets the educational adequacy requirements.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
4. This school facilities project is consistent with the District's applicable approved programmatic model contained in the District's approved LRFP, if any, or with the facilities efficiency standard ("FES") and the area allowances per FTE student, and does not exceed the model or the FES, as applicable, except for spaces for which the District is not seeking State support.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
5. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as new construction because it is needed for ☐ unhoused students or for ☐ another educational adequacy purpose*.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
6. This school facilities project or a portion of this project qualifies as rehabilitation as it is required to keep the school facilities functional for its original purposes or for new purposes but does not increase the gross square footage of the school facility and does not include any routine maintenance or required maintenance but may include capital maintenance.
Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐
7. This school facilities project may be subject to the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement requirements of Executive Order 215.
8. This school facilities project is a new school, and therefore must incorporate the guidelines developed by the United States Green Building Council known as "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design ("LEED"), Version 2."
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
9. This school facilities project has been determined to be an Emergent Project by the County Superintendent.
Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

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II. Description of the approved school facilities project

The approved school facilities project consists of the following components:

Eligible

- **Replace the fire alarm system;**
- **Upgrades to the Media Center finishes,**
- **Replace roof-top HAVC units,**
- **Install integrated building management system (BMS) for mechanical equipment,**
- **Repave the existing playground areas, basketball courts,**
- **Replace the running track,**
- **Re-key locksets at interior and exterior doors,**
- **Install new emergency backup generator,**

Ineligible

- **Replace interactive whiteboards in classrooms,**

Building System	Impacted Systems (X)	Description
General Conditions	X	
Site Improvements	X	
Exterior Closure	X	
Interior Construction	X	
HVAC	X	
Electrical Distribution	X	
Communications	X	
FF & E > 10 years	X	
Soft Costs	X	

III. Preliminary eligible costs ("PEC") for the approved school facilities project:

The District's aid percentage as defined in section 3 of the Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-3 is 0.0000 % and State share will be equal to 100% of that percentage, except that it will not be less than 40% of final eligible costs.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7 the following is the PEC for the approved school facilities project:

PEC Calculations:

Preliminary Eligible Cost Calculations for SP#:					4350-030-25-1000		Holland Brook School	
	Functional Capacity (FC)	Projected Enrollment (PE)	Unhoused Students (UH)	Area Allowance / FTE Student (AA)	****Maximum or Actual Gross Square Footage (GSF)	Preliminary Eligible Cost (PEC)		
*New Construction	0	0	0	0.00	Max: 0	\$	-	
					Actual:	\$	-	
Other Eligible Costs for Educational Adequacy (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-	
**Rehabilitation						\$	7,093,251.00	
TOTAL PEC						\$	7,093,251.00	
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on \$143/SF)					0	\$	-	
Ineligible Excess Costs (Based on estimated actual cost for rehabilitation)						\$	150,650.00	
TOTAL Ineligible Excess Costs						\$	150,650.00	
Total Project Cost						\$	7,243,901.00	
*New construction costs are calculated using \$143.00 per square foot times the GSF.								
**The rehabilitation costs are compiled from the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project.								
FY 25 DAP =		0.0000%			or 40% whichever is greater.		40.0000%	
***The preliminary eligible costs for new construction will be calculated based on the maximum allowable additional gross square footage or the actual gross square footage, whichever is smaller. The final eligible costs may not equal preliminary eligible costs, pursuant to the district's right to appeal preliminary eligible costs under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6. A change in final eligible costs will mean a change in State and local share of those costs.								

- a. Rehabilitation costs are based on the architect's line item cost estimate of the scope of work to be performed during the school facilities project. These costs have been reviewed and approved by the Department.

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IV. Actions to be taken

A. Introduction: If a district constructs the school facilities project, the district will receive State support in the form of State debt service aid (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9). The district also has options on whether to accept or appeal the Department's determinations of space eligible for State support and PEC. Further, the district will need to take certain actions depending on whether the project is subject to educational adequacy requirements. **Please note that the above review is limited to the spaces in the approved programmatic model for the above-referenced school facilities project.**

B. District elected options: Thirty (30) days from the date of this PEC letter, the Department will issue a FEC letter with "debt service" as the State funding source. If the District does not agree with these elections, they must notify the Department prior to this action.

The following information is only for non- acceptance of the PEC elections.

The District has the option to defer the acceptance of the PEC **only on new construction** (related to \$143/sf). If the District chooses to defer a decision they must develop detailed plans and specifications by a design professional. At this time the District may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department for an increase in PEC (based on \$143/sf) in an amount not to exceed 10% of the PEC, if such plans indicate that the cost of constructing the approved school facilities project exceeds the PEC as determined by the Commissioner.

C. Educational adequacy and Uniform Construction Code review. If the other capital project **does not require** final educational adequacy review, the district is not required to make a final educational adequacy submission to the Department or pay the Department final educational adequacy review fees. **The district may advance the project, including review for Uniform Construction Code ("UCC") compliance as required to the local municipal code enforcing agency. If the local code enforcement agency declines to perform the plan review or is not classified at the appropriate level for the project in question, then the project may go to an appropriately classified local code enforcement agency or to the Department of Community Affairs. Because of added security requirements, plans and specifications for the construction of new schools will continue to be reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs.**

Note: The district must demonstrate to the Department that extraordinary circumstances require an award of the entire approval project scope in separate phases.

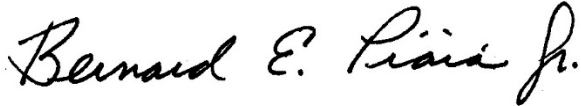
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D. Executive Order 215. School facilities projects meeting certain State assistance percentage (at least 20% of total project costs) and cost thresholds (total construction costs in excess of \$ 1 million) and not otherwise exempted (exemptions include rehabilitation and new construction not increasing the building's capacity by more than 25 percent) are required to comply with E.O. 215, including the preparation and submission of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement as applicable, prior to site preparation and/or construction activity.

E. Final eligible costs and local support. A district may not seek approval of the local support (e.g., school bonds, lease purchase, etc.) for the school facilities project until the Department has notified the district of the FEC for the project. Also, no school facilities project may be constructed unless, if there is a local support amount, such local support has received approval as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.7. However, a district may seek approval of the estimated local share in its annual budget prior to a determination of FEC, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.6.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, contact Anthony Brun by email at tony.brun@doe.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Bernard E. Piaia, Jr.

Director, Office of School Facility Projects

BEP:ab

c: Amanda Schultz, Executive Director, Division of Finance and Business Services
Juan Torres, Executive Hunterdon County Superintendent
Jason Bohm Readington Township School District Business Administrator
Kevin Settembrino, Settembrino Architects
Frank Ladvas, Planning Associate, Division of Finance
Anthony Brun, Office of School Facility Projects