



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 4a
May 28, 2015

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

June, 9, 2015

TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Deborah Gist, Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Approval of Necessity of School Construction: Cumberland

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education has as one of its responsibilities reviewing and certifying the need for school construction projects to be reimbursed through the school housing aid program. Most large projects are supported by bonds and are comprehensive projects with major renovation and/or new construction components. The School Construction Regulations instituted a rolling application process that allows districts to submit their applications when they are complete. Because of this, the Board will be asked to review and approve projects on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The FY 2015 State budget extended the moratorium on Board of Education approvals until May 1, 2015, except for projects necessitated by immediate health and safety reasons. On May 1, 2015, the Budget Office on behalf of the Governor requested that the Department hold off on advancing requests for new construction projects to the Council of Elementary and Secondary Education, with the exception of immediate health and safety projects, until the anticipated passage by the General Assembly of Article 9 - Relating to School Building Authority Capital Fund in the FY2016 Appropriations Act. Delaying new approvals will allow a clear demarcation for communities and prevent duplicate applications, as the State begins to implement a new system of funding construction and renovation of school facilities.

At this meeting, the Council is being asked to approve several health and safety projects. A chart summarizing Cumberland School District's projects is provided in Attachment 1 and a more detailed description of the projects is found in Attachment 2.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves the necessity of school construction projects for the Cumberland School Department totaling \$4,997,888 pursuant to 16-7-41.1 as follows (please note that when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$2,049,134):

Cumberland:

- a. Districtwide Health and Safety Repairs
 - i. Ashton Elementary School \$ 329,876
 - ii. B.F. Norton Elementary School \$ 6,900
 - iii. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School \$ 23,460
 - iv. McCourt Middle School \$ 3,105,015
 - v. North Middle School \$ 1,487,925
 - vi. Cumberland High School \$ 44,712

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SUMMARY: FY 2015 NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

CUMBERLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISCTRICT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	JUSTIFICATION	FY 2015 AID SHARE RATIO*	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	STATE SHARE	STATE SHARE W/ INTEREST**
Districtwide Health and Safety Repairs <i>(see attachment 2)</i>	This project includes immediate emergency repairs at six (6) district facilities - Ashton Elementary School, B.F. Norton Elementary School, McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, McCourt Middle School, North Middle School, and Cumberland High School. The proposed repairs will address high priority issues including fire code improvements, structural repairs, hazardous materials abatement, and high priority HVAC repairs.	This project will address high priority health, life safety, and code compliance issues at six district schools. The repairs include fire code upgrades, building envelope repair and replacement to prevent water infiltration, high priority mechanical improvements and other building system improvements that affect student and staff health and safety.	41%	\$4,997,888	\$2,049,131	\$2,049,131

* State share ratio is based on FY2015 calculation. District may be eligible for additional reimbursement through bonuses awarded for energy and water efficiency, ADA improvements, and asbestos abatement.

** Only bonds financed through RIHEBC are eligible for reimbursement on interest. Cumberland intends to fund these projects with capital reserve funds.

**Cumberland School Department
Districtwide Health and Safety Improvements**

Project Cost: \$ 4,997,888

Project Description: This project will address immediate emergency repairs at six (6) district facilities, including Ashton Elementary School, B.F. Norton Elementary School, McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, McCourt Middle School, North Middle School, and Cumberland High School. The proposed repairs include high priority renovations including fire code improvements, structural repairs, hazardous materials abatement, and high priority HVAC repairs.

Project Justification:

- Hazardous materials abatement will be conducted to prevent indoor environmental quality issues.
- High priority districtwide mechanical system repairs will provide code required heating and ventilation and resolve indoor air quality deficiencies.
- Building envelope repairs, including masonry repairs to prevent water infiltration.

* * *

This project is approved by the School Committee and Town officials.

Special Contingency: All other things being equal, the services of qualified and capable vendors with offices in Rhode Island, or those who propose a joint venture with a Rhode Island firm, should be utilized.