



# Legal, Regulatory and Policy Framework for School Design in California

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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction



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State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction

The Mission of the  
California Department of Education,  
School Facilities Planning Division is to:

*“Provide the children of California with safe  
and educationally appropriate facilities and  
transportation services”*



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# Context

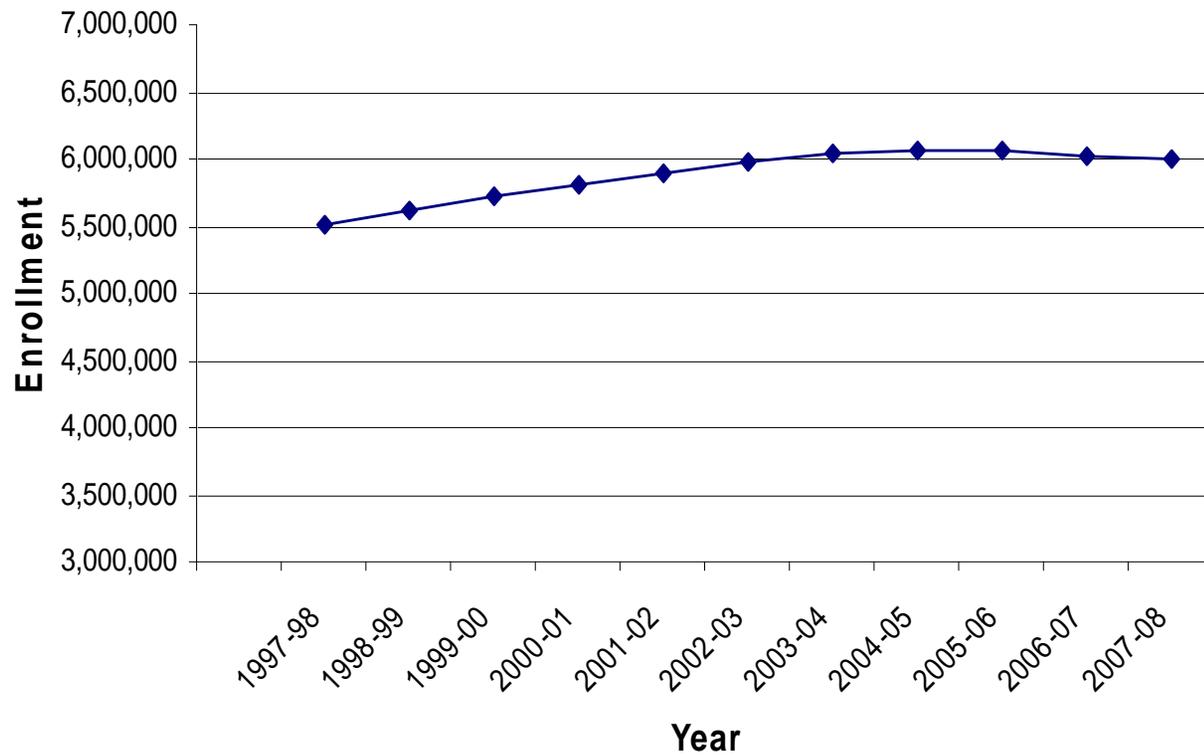
Type of School	Number of Schools in 1997	Number of Schools in 2007	Increase from 1997 to 2007
Elementary	5,185	5,770	585
Middle	1,119	1,293	174
High	860	1,214	354
Alternative	1,015	1,494	479
Charter	142	675	533
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,321</b>	<b>10,446</b>	<b>2,125</b>

# Context



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## California K-12 Enrollment 1997-2007

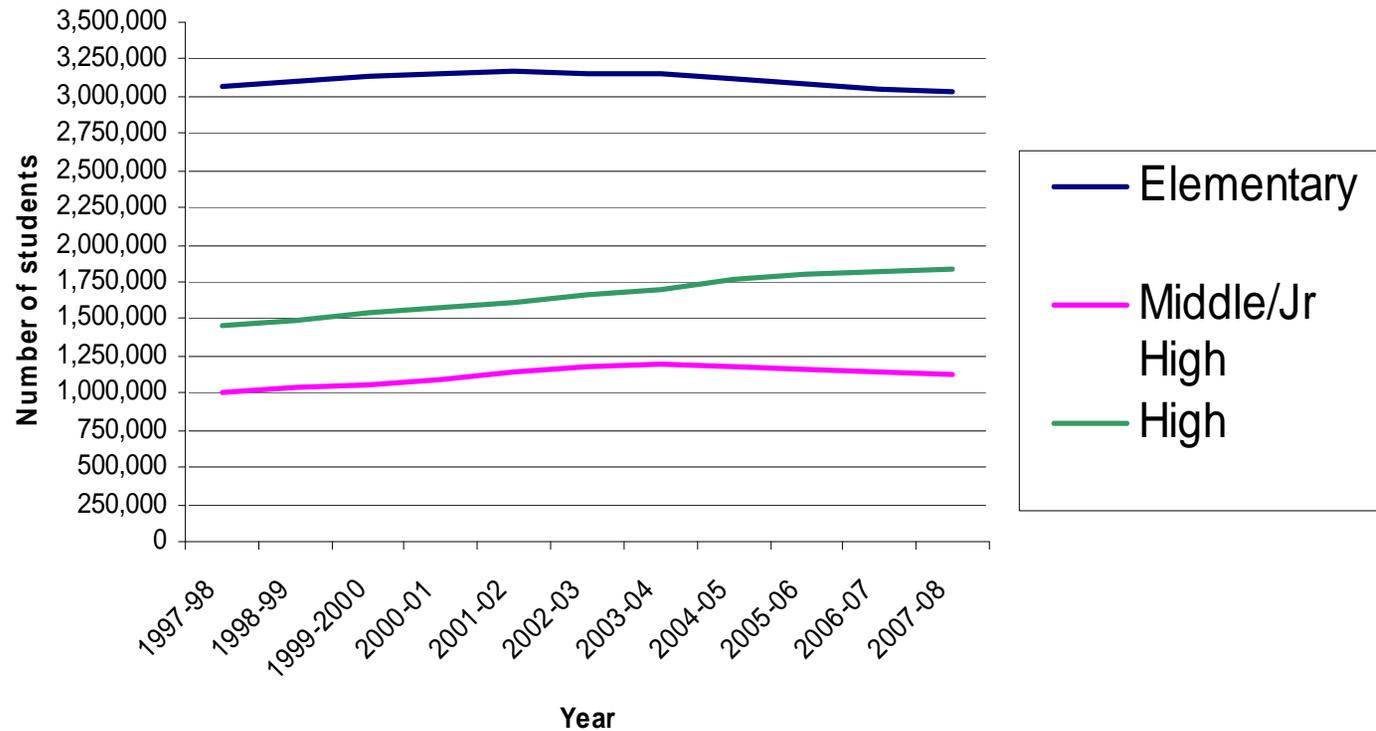


# Context



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## California K-12 Enrollment 1997-2007





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# Context

- Five largest districts—2007 Enrollment

Los Angeles Unified	693,680
San Diego Unified	131,577
Long Beach Unified	88,186
Fresno Unified	76,460
Elk Grove Unified	62,694



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# Context

- Five smallest districts—2007 Enrollment

Panoche Elementary	7
Maple Creek Elementary	9
Union Elementary	9
Blake Elementary	10
Ravendale-Termo Elementary	11



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# Context

## K-12 School Construction Funding 1982-2008

- State Bonds-- \$45 billion
- Local district bonds--\$56 billion



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# Overview

- California districts have wide latitude in school design decisions
  - Made within a statutory and regulatory framework that includes:
    - Compliance with site selection standards
    - Compliance with plan standards developed
      - California Department of Education –Title 5
      - Division of State Architect—Title 24



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# Overview

- State participates in the funding of most projects
  - State Allocation Board
  - Prescribed eligibility calculation
  - Funding for new construction and modernization
    - Per student allocation
    - Local matching share
  - CDE approval needed prior to funding



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# Role of CDE

- 1) Develop standards for school site selection and design  
--Education Code Section 17251



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# Role of CDE

Standards are contained in California *Code of Regulations* Title 5, sections 14010 and 14030

- Adopted by State Board of Education in 1993 and revised in 2000
  
- Minimum standards for safety and educational appropriateness.
  - Pedestrian safety
  - Classroom square footage



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# Role of CDE

## Title 5 Plan Review Process

- District governing board adoption of educational specification
- CDE review of preliminary plans
- CDE approval of final plans



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# Role of CDE

## Title 5 standards are:

### –Prescriptive/Quantitative

- Classroom size

- General classroom=960 square feet
- Kindergarten classrooms= 1,350 square feet

### –Performance/Qualitative

- Lighting
- Acoustics



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# Role of CDE

## 2) Code Compliance

CDE review ensures various code provisions are met including:

- Phones in classrooms
- Career Technical Education Facilities
- Site contamination investigation and remediation



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# Role of CDE

## 3) Technical assistance and best practices documents including:

- Physical education facilities
- Nutrition service facilities
- Site selection
- Development of educational specifications



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# CDE Review Tensions

After the fact review for compliance

versus

Early consultation in design stages  
to better incorporate standards and  
best practices



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# CDE Review Tensions

Responsiveness to local needs

versus

Compliance with statewide standards  
and equity



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# CDE Review Tensions

Cost and time

versus

Better design



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# CDE Review Tensions

Modernization that impacts the many

versus

New construction that impacts the few



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# CDE Review Tensions

## Performance Standards

versus

## Prescriptive Standards



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“By improving our school facilities, and by promoting facilities designed specifically to help close the achievement gap, we improve California's ability to deliver a world class education for all students”.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, December 13, 2007.