Legal, Regulatory and Policy Framework for School Design in California

Fred Yeager, Assistant Director, School Facility Planning Division
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”
## Context

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

California K-12 Enrollment
1997-2007

Enrollment

Year

Year


3,000,000 3,500,000 4,000,000 4,500,000 5,000,000 5,500,000 6,000,000 6,500,000 7,000,000
Context

California K-12 Enrollment
1997-2007
### Context

- **Five largest districts—2007 Enrollment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Unified</td>
<td>693,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego Unified</td>
<td>131,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach Unified</td>
<td>88,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno Unified</td>
<td>76,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elk Grove Unified</td>
<td>62,694</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Context

- **Five smallest districts—2007 Enrollment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panoche Elementary</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Creek Elementary</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Elementary</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Elementary</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravendale-Termo Elementary</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Context

K-12 School Construction Funding 1982-2008

– State Bonds-- $45 billion

– Local district bonds--$56 billion
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
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
Role of CDE

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

3) Technical assistance and best practices documents including:

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

After the fact review for compliance

versus

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

Responsiveness to local needs

versus

Compliance with statewide standards and equity
CDE Review Tensions

Cost and time

versus

Better design
CDE Review Tensions

Modernization that impacts the many

versus

New construction that impacts the few
CDE Review Tensions
Performance Standards

versus

Prescriptive Standards
“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”.