

Viewpoints

Proposition 2 Funding: Act Now Before It's Gone



The passage of Proposition 2, which provides \$10 billion in bonds for California K-12 schools and community colleges, represents a significant investment in educational infrastructure. However, with an existing backlog of unfunded projects totaling \$4.8 billion from the previous Proposition 51 bond, much of the new funding is already spoken for, leaving limited resources for new projects.

The first-come, first-served allocation system further pressures districts to act swiftly in submitting applications to avoid being left behind. While Proposition 2 introduces some equity-focused changes, such as increased funding for high-poverty, low-wealth districts and reserved allocations for small districts, some critics argue that the funding distribution still favors wealthier districts with greater resources to navigate the complex application process.



School districts should begin preparing now by developing comprehensive master plans and securing expert guidance to navigate the intricate approval process involving multiple state agencies.

Given the competitive landscape and the lengthy timeline for fund disbursement (potentially taking years) districts should proactively position themselves to maximize their share of available funding while considering alternative funding sources to bridge gaps. Districts should apply for funding as soon as is practicable to avoid being placed on a waiting list for future allocations.

The record 205 school districts that passed construction bonds in November will spend 2025 vying for matching money from a \$10 billion state bond that will meet only a small portion of the demand for financial help.

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