

160-5-4-.05 REGULAR ADVANCE AND LOW-WEALTH FUNDING.

(1) REQUIREMENTS.

(a) A local school system shall meet the following conditions to qualify for regular advance funding.

1. The school system shall have a current approved facilities plan in which the advance funded project is identified as the next priority.
2. The requested project will require a minimum of three years of regular capital outlay program entitlement earnings after regular and exceptional growth accumulated entitlements have been deducted to construct the project.
3. The system shall have no remaining entitlement due on previous advance funded projects.
4. The project applied for shall not be in addition to other projects funded in a given year under the regular capital outlay program.
5. Regular advance funding applications shall be for only one project as required by law.
6. School systems seeking regular advance funding for across-system-line schools shall be required to utilize up to three year's combined entitlements.
7. Systems applying for regular advance funding for an across-county-line school shall have executed a 25 year contract as specified by law.

(b) Systems applying for advance funding under the provisions of law relating to schools certified as hazards to health and safety shall provide the following appropriate certification with the application.

1. Certification from the appropriate Department of Human Resources District/ Unit Health Director that such hazards exist.
2. Certification by the State Fire Marshal's Office specifying the life safety code violation.

(c) To qualify for low-wealth funding under the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-262, a school system shall meet the following conditions:

1. Sales tax revenues per full-time equivalent (FTE) student count for the school

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system shall be less than 75 percent of the state-wide average sales tax revenues per FTE student count.

2. Value of property per FTE student count for the school system shall be less than 75 percent of the state-wide average value of property per FTE student count.

3. Per capita income of residents of the school system shall be less than 75 percent of the state-wide average per capita income based on the latest census data.

4. The school system's millage rate for maintenance and operation shall be at least 60 percent of the system's constitutional authority to recommend; or if the school system is not a recommending authority, the appropriations to the system shall represent a minimum of 60 percent of the amount that would be generated by a rate of 20 mills; or if the school system is eligible to receive local option sales tax proceeds for maintenance and operation purposes, the combination of property tax revenue and sales tax revenue shall represent a minimum of 60 percent of the amount that would be generated by a rate of 20 mills.

5. A special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) is in effect in the local school district or the local school system has in place a millage rate for debt service on bonds, or both.

6. The school system is currently participating in the regular advance funding program and will continue in that status for a minimum one additional fiscal year beyond the fiscal year for which the low-wealth application is submitted.

7. To qualify for funding for a second low-wealth application, the school system shall meet all of the following conditions:

8. The school system shall have met all of the conditions stated in paragraph (c) of this rule to qualify for low-wealth funding for at least three consecutive years prior to the year the second low-wealth application is submitted for funding.

9. A second low-wealth application submitted by a qualified school system must be for the next unfunded priority shown in the school system's currently approved local facilities plan.

10. An eligible school system may submit no more than two applications for low-wealth funding until such time as all of the regular advance funding and low-wealth funding received by the school system has been repaid from the system's regular entitlement earnings.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-260; 20-2-262.

Adopted: April 13, 2004

Effective: May 9, 2004