

SB 128 (Lowenthal)

As Amended March 22, 2011

K-12 High Performance Schools

FACT SHEET

PURPOSE

Senate Bill 128 will allow Career Technical Education (CTE) construction projects to be eligible for funding from the High Performance Schools (HPS) Program.

Proposition 1D (2006) set aside \$100 million in General Obligation bond funds for the High Performance Schools (HPS) Program to provide incentives to school districts for the construction of high performance school facilities. To date, approximately \$75 million in HPS program funds remain unclaimed. Currently, CTE projects are not allowed to participate in the HPS program.

SB 128 will also allow Modernization construction projects to include new environmentally high performing systems.

SB 128 will create jobs, energy cost savings for districts and healthy learning environments for our children.

SUMMARY

SB 128 will:

- Allow Career Technical Education facility projects to participate in the HPS program.
- Allow Modernization construction projects to include new high performance systems.

BACKGROUND

The State School Facility Modernization program provides funding to renovate school facilities that are at least 25 years old.

Current law does not allow new high performance systems to be funded under the Modernization program. While new school facilities must meet rigorous environmental

standards, our older classrooms remain ineligible for funding for some green building systems, creating inequities in our K-12 learning environments.

We have found that high performance facilities can affect the academic performance of our pupils; day lighting, clean, well-circulated air and good acoustics can all contribute to better pupil performance.

We also know that school districts can save operational dollars through the addition of energy efficiency and energy generation systems, yet some of these building systems are not available to districts through the state Modernization program.

SB 128 will make the construction of new high performance systems eligible for funding under the Modernization program – providing the children and teachers housed in our older schools the same healthy learning environments enjoyed in our new schools.

SUPPORT

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
California Federation of Teachers
California School Boards Association
California State PTA
Coalition for Adequate School Housing
Community Action to Fight Asthma
County School Facility Consortium
Natural Resources Defense Council
US Green Building Council California

OPPOSE

None on file.

STATUS

Senate Floor