

Department of Education
FAQ – New Bond & Grant Program

Program Background/Overview

1. What is the purpose of SB 447?
2. How will SB 447 achieve that purpose?
3. Who is in charge of administering SB 447?
4. What are the components of this program?
5. What are the sources of funds for the three components of SB 447?
6. Are charter schools eligible to receive the match?
7. What is a General Obligation (GO) bond?

OSCIM Program Funding

1. How much funding is available for the OSCIM Program?
2. Will this funding level be carried over from biennium to biennium?
3. How much net funding does the OSF anticipate will be available for grants from these bonds?
4. How will the funding be distributed to districts?
5. Are districts that passed a GO bond prior to the law going into effect eligible for the first round of funding?
6. What funds can a district use to match the state funds?
7. What are the matching limits?
8. Can a district apply for both the Priority List funding and First in Time funding?
9. Will districts be partially funded if there are not enough funds to meet the demand?

OSCIM Program Priority List/Funding Formula

1. What is the priority list?
2. What is the purpose of the priority list?
3. How is the priority list calculated?
4. When and how often will the priority list be updated?
5. Is there a chance that a district will qualify for the program, but not receive an award?
6. What is the funding formula?
7. What sources of data are used in the funding formula?
8. How will I know where my school district is on the priority list?
9. Can I appeal my district's placement on the priority list?

OSCIM First in Time Program

1. How will the Office of School Facilities define First in Time?
2. Will a postmark qualify to reserve a district's place in line?
3. If the school district submits some parts of the application later than the rest will that application count for the First in Time program?
4. May a school district receive assistance in filling out its application?
5. What happens at the application due date?
6. How will the Office of School Facilities receive applications?
7. May a district receive partial funding under the First in Time program?

OSCIM Program Application

1. Where can I find an application for the OSCIM Program?

2. Do I use the same application for the First in Time portion of the funds and the priority list portion?
3. When are the applications due?
4. Is there a contact person for help with the application?
5. SB 447 states that districts will be required to have a long range facility plan and facilities assessment done before applying for the OSCIM Program. Do those requirements apply in 2015-17?
6. What will the school districts have to do in order to receive the match?
7. Where can I get assistance in marketing and drafting my GO bond measure text?

OSCIM Program Timing/Schedule

1. Are there going to be multiple times for distribution of the funds for both the Priority List and First in Time?
2. When will the first set of funds be distributed?
3. When is the due date for the applications for the First in Time (40%) of the funds?

OSCIM Program Contingencies

1. What happens when a school district fails to pass a bond that was awarded a matching grant in the OSCIM Program?
2. Why will the funds be awarded to the next district in line instead of rolled forward to the next election cycle?
3. If a district does not receive a commitment in one election cycle, does the district have any priority in the second election cycle?
4. How will a district know when is the best time to go for a GO bond?
5. When will the Technical Assistance grants be available to help with facilities assessments and long-range facility plans?
6. When will ODE have a list of qualified providers of technical assistance?
7. When will the hardship grants be available?

Database Development

1. Why are you asking the districts for yet another set of data?
2. Districts have already supplied this data to other state agencies, can't you get the data from those sources?
3. When and what data are you going to be requesting from the school districts as part of this program?
4. How often will districts be required to update the data?
5. Will school districts have access to the full data set?

Program Background/Overview

1. What is the purpose of SB 447?
 - a. SB 447 is the legislature's implementation of the recommendations put forth by the Task Force on School Capital improvement Planning established in 2013. The goal of SB 447 is to encourage communities to pass local school district general obligation (GO) bonds to address the deferred maintenance problems present in Oregon's schools.
2. How will SB 447 achieve that purpose?
 - a. SB 447 provides direct matching grants to districts, technical assistance grants and hardship grants.
3. Who is in charge of administering SB 447?
 - a. SB 447 created the Office of School Facilities (OSF) within the Department of Education. The Office of School Facilities will be under the Office of Finance and Administration and under the management of the Director of School Finance and School Facilities.
4. What are the components of this program?
 - a. There are three components to this program. The first is the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program (OSCIM Program) that will provide matching grants to districts that pass local GO bonds. The second component is the provision of technical assistance grants to districts to create facilities assessments, long-range facilities plans, and other specialized assessments. The final component consists of hardship grants—when funding is available—to districts with immediate needs.
5. What are the sources of funds for the three components of SB 447?
 - a. The OSCIM Program is funded with state-issued GO bonds. The technical assistance grants are funded with a distribution from the State School Fund which is offset with a corresponding reduction in the facility grant of the State School Fund. The hardship grants are funded with facility grant money from the State School Fund that is not spent in the biennium.
6. Are charter schools eligible to receive the match?
 - a. No. Charter schools do not have the authority to issue GO bonds so they are not eligible to participate in the OSCIM Program. Additionally, the technical assistance grants and hardship grants are limited to school districts. However, a school district may use some of the funds to improve district-owned facilities that are occupied by a charter school.
7. What is a General Obligation (GO) bond? [Explanation of a General Obligation Bond](#).

OSCIM Program Funding

1. How much funding is available for the OSCIM Program?
 - a. The OSCIM Program was allocated \$126.2 million in state-issued GO bonds for the 2015-17 biennium.
2. Will this funding level be carried over from biennium to biennium?
 - a. No. The legislature will need to approve the amount of bonding authority for this program each biennium.
3. How much net funding does the OSF anticipate will be available for grants from these bonds?
 - a. It is anticipated that after the costs of the bond sale and various program start-up costs are deducted, there will be approximately \$123 million for state matching grants through the OSCIM Program.
4. How will the funding be distributed to districts?
 - a. As described in [SB 447](#), the funding will be split into two different funding pools. The first pool will contain 60% of the net bond proceeds and will be awarded to districts that

pass a local GO bond based on a priority list established by the Office of School Facilities. The second pool will contain 40% of the net proceeds and will be awarded to districts that pass a local GO bond based on a First in Time (FIT) program.

5. Are districts that passed a GO bond prior to the law going into effect eligible for the first round of funding?
 - a. No. Districts that passed GO bonds before July 1, 2015 are not eligible to use those bond sales as a basis for participation in this program. If those districts pass another bond after the implementation of the OSCIM Program, then that bond sale could be used as a basis for the OSCIM Program.
6. What funds can a district use to match the state funds?
 - a. A district can only use GO bond funds to match the OSCIM Program. At this time, the Office of School Facilities is unsure if there will be matching requirements for the hardship grants or technical assistance grants. This FAQ will be updated as requirements develop.
7. What are the matching limits?
 - a. The OSCIM Program will match a school district's local GO bond one-to-one up to \$4 million of local GO bond. After that limit, the OSCIM Program will match district's local GO bonds between \$4 million and \$8 million depending on the funding formula. The funding formula list [linked to funding formula PDF/Excel].
8. Can a district apply for both the Priority List funding and First in Time funding?
 - a. Yes. School districts will provide one application in which the criteria for both the Priority List and First in Time funding will be applied. A school district will be awarded funds from one source of funding, not both.
9. Will districts be partially funded if there are not enough funds to meet the demand?
 - a. No. Districts will be fully funded. If there are funds left over for a bond election, those funds will be rolled over into the next bond election cycle. There will be a final reconciliation at the last bond election where there may be a partial payment to a district.

OSCIM Program Priority List/Funding Formula

1. What is the priority list?
 - a. The priority list shows each district and how they rank in terms of funding need based on the district's total assessed value, number of students in poverty, and extended weighted Average Daily Membership (ADMw) as prescribed in SB 447.
2. What is the purpose of the priority list?
 - a. The list is to increase the likelihood that school districts that would otherwise have difficulty or be unable to pass a local GO bond, could receive state matching funds.
3. How is the priority list calculated?
 - a. Complete explanation of the priority list formula.
4. When and how often will the priority list be updated?
 - a. The priority list will be updated once a biennium to ensure that all districts are using the same list for each bond election. The list will be updated once all outside variables, including total assessed value, and poverty information have been updated from their respective sources. The updates will be done using the same year's information for all sources of information (for example, 2015 values would be used for extended ADMw, poverty numbers, and total assessed values).
5. Is there a chance that a district will qualify for the program, but not receive an award?

- a. Yes. All districts qualify for the Priority List funding. However, depending on the matching funds available in the OSCIM Program, not all districts will receive a match for each bond election.
- 6. What sources of data are used in the funding formula?
 - a. The U.S. Census Bureau provides the poverty numbers and the Oregon Department of Revenue provides the total assessed values. All ADMw information is provided by the Oregon Department of Education.
- 7. How will I know where my school district is on the priority list?
 - a. The entire list (link to list).
- 8. Can I appeal my district's placement on the priority list?
 - a. No, all determinations using the priority list and funding formula are final and based on state law.

OSCIM First in Time (FIT) Program

- 1. How will the Office of School Facilities (OSF) define First in Time?
 - a. First in Time will be defined by the order in which the Office receives completed applications from school districts.
- 2. Will a postmark qualify to reserve a district's place in line?
 - a. No. The applications must be received through secure File Transfer Protocol (FTP) to qualify for the First in Time program.
- 3. If the school district submits some parts of the application later than the rest will that application count for the First in Time program?
 - a. No. All applications that are incomplete at the time of receipt will not be included in the First in Time program awards.
- 4. May a school district receive assistance in filling out its application?
 - a. Yes. The Office of School Facilities will answer questions about the application up until the application due date.
- 5. What happens at the application due date?
 - a. At the application due date, the Office of School Facilities will no longer provide assistance to school districts. Applications will be marked in the order they are received and all completed applications that are high enough on the list will receive funding. The Office will be unable to provide application assistance after the due date in order to ensure equity for all districts.
- 6. How will the Office of School Facilities Receive applications?
 - a. The Office of School Facilities will receive applications through secure FTP available to all districts.
- 7. May a district receive partial funding under the First in Time program?
 - a. No. If after fully awarding districts matching grants there is funding left over that is not enough to award the next applicant, that funding will be rolled to the next grant and election period.

OSCIM Program Application

- 1. Where can I find an application for the OSCIM Program?
 - a. Applications for the OSCIM Program are available on the Office of School Facilities website (add link)
- 2. Do I use the same application for the First in Time portion of the funds and the priority list portion?
 - a. Yes.

3. When are the applications due?
 - a. The due dates for applications are posted on ODE's website: [link to due dates]
4. Is there a contact person for help with the application?
 - a. For OSCIM Program application assistance please contact Michael Elliott, michael.s.elliott@state.or.us.
5. SB 447 states that districts will be required to have a long range facility plan and facilities assessment done before applying for the OSCIM Program. Do those requirements apply in 2015-17?
 - a. No. SB 447 allows districts to apply for the OSCIM Program without a long range facility plan or a facilities assessment for the 2015-17 biennium, however, we encourage all school districts to provide these with their application.
6. What will the school districts have to do in order to receive the match?
 - a. In addition to passing a local GO bond, the school district will also have to comply with all of the provisions of the Grant Agreement and any applicable rules and statutes.
7. Where can I get assistance in marketing and drafting my GO bond measure text?
 - a. A financial advisor firm will be able to assist with marketing a GO bond to your community. Additionally, you can check with OSBA to determine which bond texts have had better success than others.

OSCIM Program Timing/Schedule

1. Are there going to be multiple times for distribution of the funds for both the priority list and First in Time?
 - a. Yes. The Priority List and First in Time funds will be awarded in conjunction with each May and November election in the biennium.
2. When will the first set of funds be distributed?
 - a. The first set of funds will be distributed in conjunction with the May 2016 election.
3. When is the due date for the applications for the First in Time (40%) of the funds?
 - a. The due date for both the First in Time and Priority List applications for the May 2016 distribution is January 15, 2016.

OSCIM Program Contingencies

1. What happens when a school district fails to pass a bond that was awarded a matching grant in the OSCIM Program?
 - a. Districts will not receive actual funds until voters approve a local GO bond measure and district signs a grant agreement. Thus, if the OSCIM Program commits to a district and the district does not pass its local GO bond, then those funds will not be distributed to that district. Instead the funds will be awarded to the next district in order that passed a bond.
2. Why will the funds be awarded to the next district in line instead of rolled forward to the next election?
 - a. There are two reasons for this. The first is that if funds keep being rolled forward to the next election, then at the end of the biennium, it is possible that the OSCIM Program will have leftover funds because not enough districts passed a bond. It would be difficult to sort back through the elections to determine which districts that passed a bond should receive the matching grant. The second reason is that while the primary goal is to encourage districts to pass bonds, the secondary goal is to provide state funding to help address the significant deferred maintenance backlog in Oregon schools. By

providing the funds to the next district in line that passed a bond, the OSCIM Program is achieving that objective.

3. If a district does not receive a commitment in one grant period, does the district have any priority in the second grant period?
 - a. No. Each grant period is a self-contained list. Thus, a district that did not receive funds in one grant period would have to reapply in the next grant period and be considered with all other applications in the next grant period.
4. How will a district know when is the best time to go for a GO bond?
 - a. That is a decision left to the district's school board. The OSCIM Program will provide as much information as possible in terms of the applications ahead of the district's and the levels of funding.
5. When will the Technical Assistance grants be available to help with facilities assessments and long-range facility plans?
 - a. It is anticipated that technical assistance grants will be available in the summer of 2016.
6. When will ODE have a list of qualified providers of technical assistance?
 - a. ODE will convene an advisory group to review the necessary requirements for providers to meet as well as the means by which to develop the certification list. It is anticipated that the advisory group will complete its work by the spring of 2016 with the list being posted shortly after that.
7. When will the hardship grants be available?
 - a. The hardship grants will come available during the 2017-19 biennium. The hardship grants are funded from unspent Facility Grant funds. The Office of School Facilities will not know if there are unspent Facility Grant funds until the end of the 2015-17 biennium.

Database Development

1. Why are you asking the districts for yet another set of data?
 - a. The database grew out of [SB 540](#) which required the establishment of a school facilities database and is also a requirement of [SB 447](#).
2. Districts have already supplied this data to other state agencies, can't you get the data from those sources?
 - a. Yes. The goal is to work with other state agencies to get their data and integrate it into the data that the Office of School Facilities already has. This data would, hopefully, pre-populate many of the fields in the data collection. Districts would then need to verify the data and supply the missing fields. This should ease the burden on school districts.
3. When and what data are you going to be requesting from the school districts as part of this program?
 - a. The type of data and the frequency of updates are determined by SB 540 passed in 2013. Also ODE will convene an advisory group to provide further recommendations on the database.
4. How often will districts be required to update the data?
 - a. There would be two types of data requested from districts. The first would be an annual review of the database to ensure that the information is current and updated. The second data requests would be when districts provide long-range facility plans or facility assessments as part of their applications to the OSCIM Program.
5. Will school districts have access to the full data set?

- a. Yes, the goal is that school districts and the public have access to as much of the data as possible.