Overview

The cooperative secondary facilities grant program provides state grants to groups of local school districts that desire to build a new secondary facility. A district must meet the same criteria as required by the cooperation and combination (C&C) program in order to qualify for a grant; a minimum of two school districts must agree to apply for the grant; the facility must serve at least 66 pupils per grade; and each participating district must have fewer than 1,200 pupils in total. Grant amounts are currently limited to the lesser of 75 percent of the project cost or $6 million ($1 million of this amount is available to the applicants only if the applicants demonstrate that new school facility will provide for "collocation" of other governmental services).

A group of districts that desire a cooperative secondary facility grant must enter into a joint powers agreement and apply to the Department of Children, Families and Learning for project approval. If the state makes bond proceeds available, districts must hold a referendum to approve the sale of bonds for the local portion of the project costs within 180 days of receiving a grant from the state. The referendum must be approved by a majority of those voting on the bond issue.

In recent years, the legislature has awarded a $100,000 planning grant to potential grant recipients and has also named specific grantees in law when the bond proceeds are made available.

1 Planning grant. Appropriates $100,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of children, families and learning for a grant to facilitate planning for a cooperative secondary facility for six school districts located in the southwest part of the state. The districts are: Nos. 411, Balaton; 402, Ivanhoe; 418 Russell; 584, Ruthtton; and 409 Tyler.

2 Effective date. Makes section 1 effective July 1, 1999.