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ABSTRACT

Under legislation passed at the January 1973 Session of the Rhode Island State Legislature, the Board of Regents has, as one of its specific functions, the determination of the necessity of school construction and the approval of standards for design and construction of school building throughout the state. The procedures contained in this pamphlet must be followed in order to have a proposal for school construction considered for approval by the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents. (Author/MLF)

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requirements

for

requesting

approval

for

local

school

construction

regulations

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Thomas C. Schmidt



Information in this booklet was compiled and edited for the Rhode Island State Department of Education by Dr. Sidney P. Boline, Rhode Island College.

general information

Under legislation passed at the January 1973 Session of the Rhode Island State Legislature the Board of Regents has, as one of its specific functions, the determination of the necessity of school construction and the approval of standards for design and construction of school building throughout the state. To this end, on November 7, 1974, the Board of Regents approved the following procedures:

1. *Requests for approval for construction from local school districts should be addressed directly to the Commissioner of Education, and the Commissioner of Education should notify the Board of Regents when such requests have been received.*
2. *The commissioner should furnish the regents, within a reasonable period of time, with an analysis of the request, along with a recommendation for approval, disapproval or modification.*
3. *Following receipt of the commissioner's recommendation, the regents should make the "determination of need."*
4. *If the local school district request is approved by the regents, the Commissioner of Education should "certify" need to the appropriate legislative committee, providing the local school district with a copy of the "certification."*
5. *If the local school district request is not approved, reasons for the disapproval should be forwarded by the Commissioner of Education, in writing, to the appropriate committee of the legislature and to the local school district. Suggested modifications should be handled in the same manner as disapprovals.*
6. *Notice of "certification" from the Commissioner of Education to the legislature and local school district should be sent within five working days following the decision of the Board of Regents.*

approved
procedures

scope

These regulations deal with initial requests for approval that are to be sent to the Commissioner of Education. They relate to all public school buildings in the state, including the construction of new buildings, of additions or remodeling of existing buildings, and the acquisition of buildings to be occupied by pupils for which the district will request state aid through Title 16, Chapter 7, Sections 35-47 of the General Laws.

Approval of a proposed construction project does not include endorsement of materials, mechanical equipment or other devices mentioned in the plans or specifications.

interpretation

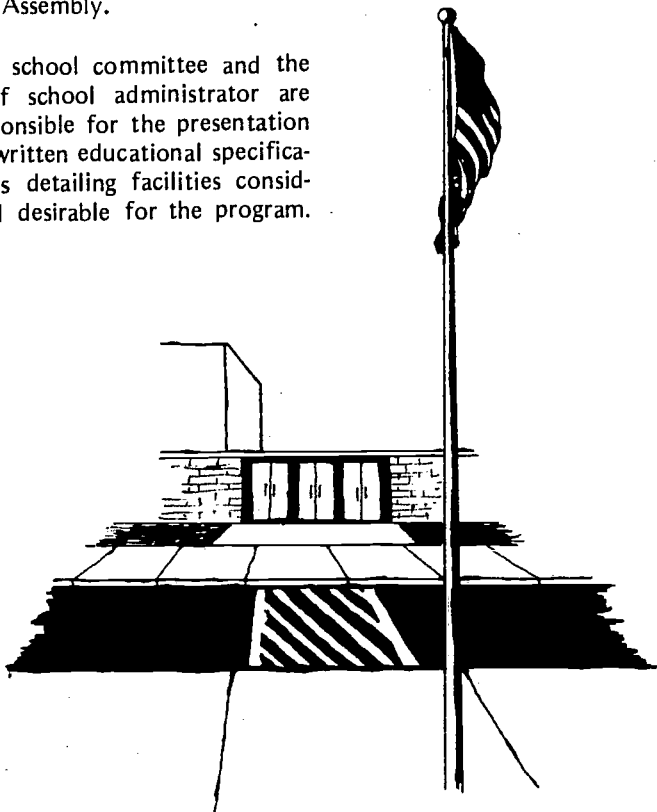
In the event of a question of interpretation of any of these regulations, authority is reserved to the Commissioner of Education.

responsibility

The school committee is responsible for presenting data to the Commissioner of Education to support a request for construction of school buildings. These data must be presented by December 1 of year prior to presentation of enabling legislation to the General Assembly.

educational specifications

The school committee and the chief school administrator are responsible for the presentation of written educational specifications detailing facilities considered desirable for the program.



use of these regulations

In order to have a proposal for school construction considered for approval by the commissioner and the Board of Regents, the following steps must be taken.

step one

The local school district shall prepare, for its own consideration, the following items:

1. Present pupil population and projected pupil population for the next five years (by grade level; for the entire district).
2. Estimated total population of the community (preferably by age groups). Source of these data should be cited.
3. Evaluation of existing buildings in terms of serving present and projected program needs. Information should be included concerning relationships between estimated capacities of buildings, present enrollments and future enrollments.
4. Evidence of coordination of the proposed construction project with other local planning.
5. Information about availability of space in adjoining school districts, feeder schools (if such data are pertinent), transportation plan and available community facilities suitable to educational use.
6. Analysis of current financial status of district including present tax rate and present bonded indebtedness, and projected impact of new bond issue on local tax rate.

step two

When all of the data in STEP ONE are gathered and evaluated, and the local school committee believes that there is a need for the district to construct new and/or additional facilities, the information about (1) pupil enrollments, (2) population projections, (3) evaluation of existing buildings, (4) evidence of coordination of proposed construction project with other local planning, (5) information about space in adjoining districts, and (6) analysis of financial status should be compiled into a single "Proposal" and submitted to the Commissioner of Education, along with the following items:

1. A description of the construction project(s), including age groups to be served, approximate size of building(s) and estimated total cost.
2. Description of site, including size, location and availability of utilities. If site is not presently available, indicate size and location of site being sought.
3. A written outline of educational specifications for the new building(s), approved by the local school committee. These outline specifications should include a description of the educational program to be housed along with proposed kinds and sizes of spaces to accommodate the educational program. (It is expected that more detailed educational specifications will be presented along with preliminary architectural drawings after need for the proposed project has been determined).

To assist local school districts with the organization of the request for approval of school construction projects, the following forms will be provided. Districts are invited to attach any additional information to support the request.

form

1

request
for
approval
for
school
construction

Send to:

Commissioner of Education
199 Promenade Street, Providence, R.I.

1. Local School District:
2. Date Submitted:
3. For Fiscal Year:
4. Construction Project Title:
5. Construction Project Location:
6. Project Description: (Attach additional sheets as required)
7. Estimated Total Cost: \$
8. Site Available: YES () NO ()
9. Status of Utilities for Project:
(A - Available N - Not Available)
Water _____
Sanitary Sewer _____ Electricity _____
Storm Sewers _____ Access Roads _____
Gas _____ Sidewalks _____
10. Estimated Increase in Operating Budget:
Staff Expense _____
Other Operating Expense _____
Total Increase in Budget _____
11. Justification of Project: (Attach additional sheets as required)

1. Present pupil population, by grade, for each school in district.
(Use additional sheets as required)

2. Projected pupil population, by grade, for each school in district.
(Use additional sheets as required)

3. Present population of community by age group.

4. Projected population of community by age group, for next five years.

form # 3

evaluation
of
existing
school
facilities

(Use separate sheet for each school)

School _____

(check rating)

Performance	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Not Acceptable
Site					
Space					
Light					
Heat & Air					
Sound					
Aesthetics					
Equipment					
Maintenance					
Overall					

Narrative evaluation. (Also note any problem areas together with possible solutions and explain any poor or not acceptable ratings):

Site:

Space:

Light:

Heat and Air:

10

evaluation
of
existing
school
facilities

form # 3(cont.)

Sound:

Aesthetics:

Equipment:

Maintenance:

Recommendations for needed corrections and improvements
(List in priority order and include a budget estimate, if possible):