

Guided by Principles

Shaping the State of California's Role in K-12 Public School Facility Funding

Policy Research Working Paper

January 2015



The Governor, members of the legislature and other key stakeholders have identified concerns about the State of California's approach to funding K-12 school facilities, but they have not yet formulated a consensus going forward on the state role and responsibilities for school district facilities. To inform the school facilities funding policy debate this policy brief proposes principles to guide policy decisions about the State of California's facility funding role and provides an analysis of school facility indicators.

Principles to Guide the State Role in School Facilities Funding

The State of California's role in K-12 school facilities policy and funding should be based on principles that uphold the state responsibility for public education and promote the state's interests in ensuring value in public spending.

Principle 1: Equity. The state's role should ensure equity in K-12 public school facility conditions and state facility funding allocations should be equitably distributed, guided by student, staff, and school needs.

Principle 2: Local District Effort and Accountability. State K-12 facility allocations should incentivize response local planning and investment for K-12 facilities.

Principle 3: Fiscal Stability and Predictability. State K-12 facility allocations should be stable in nature to promote sound local planning and sound investments that prioritize health, safety, and educational suitability of learning environments.

Principle 4: Facilities Adequacy. State policies and funding allocation on K-12 facilities should strive to achieve adequate levels of combined state and local investment that best promote health, safety, and educational suitability.

Principle 5: Program Simplicity. State K-12 facility allocations should be transparent and easily understood and accessed.

Upholding basic principles of fairness, including both state and local accountability, will best promote a streamlined K-12 capital investment approach with the potential to bring added value to both schools and their communities. The principles and indicators herein should serve as guideposts.

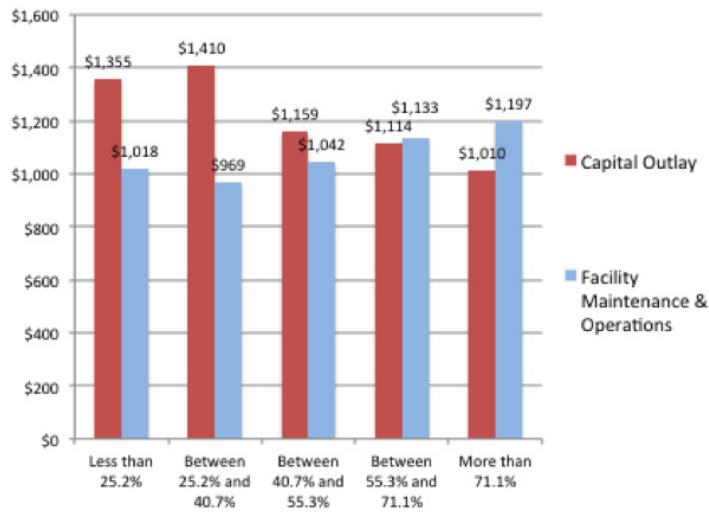


Full Policy Research Working Paper:

http://citiesandschools.berkeley.edu/uploads/2015_Guided_by_Principles.pdf

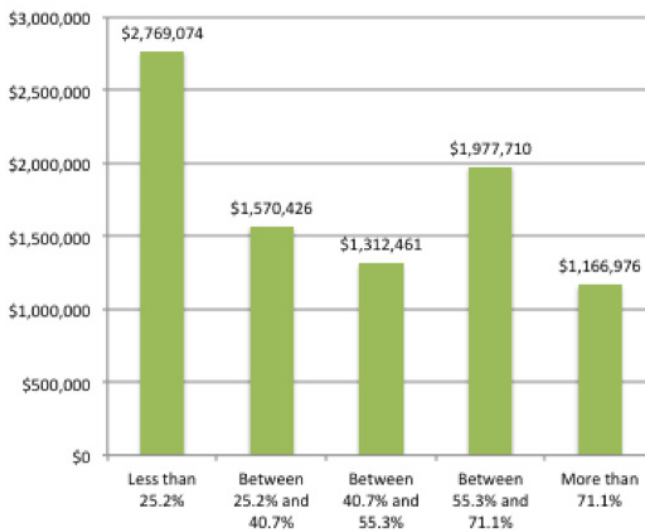
Selected Indicators of California's K-12 School Facilities

California K-12 School District Average Annual School Facilities Spending per Student by FRPM, 2007-2011 (2011 \$)



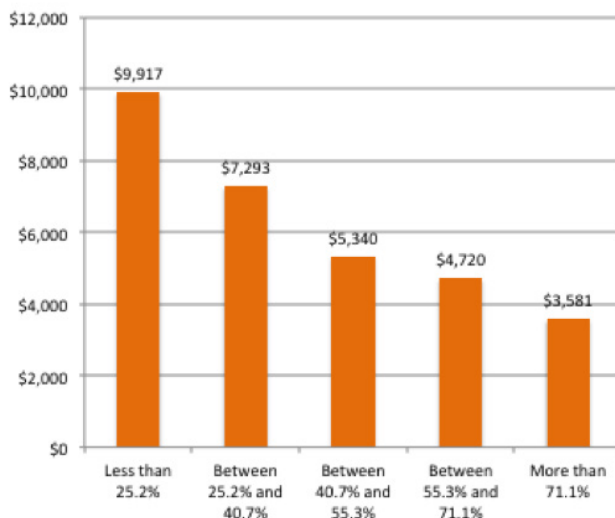
Data Source: California Department of Education; National Center for Education Statistics

California K-12 School District Assessed Value per Student (2014) by FRPM



Data Source: California Department of Education; Eastshore Consulting

School District Long-Term Debt per Student (2011) by FRPM



Data Source: California Department of Education; National Center for Education Statistics