



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Tom Torlakson

School Facilities and Transportation Services Division

Juan Mireles | Director

The Department of Education Site and Plan Approval Process

Assembly Education Committee

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Vision for California Public School Facilities

The California Department of Education envisions school facilities that enhance the achievement of all students and are learner-centered, safe, sustainable, and centers of the community.



Statutory Authority

Education Code Section 17251

(a)“...advise the governing board (of a school district) on the acquisition of new school sites...(and) give the governing board in writing a list of the recommended locations in the order of their merit, considering especially the matters of educational merit, safety, reduction in traffic hazards, and conformity to the land use element of the general plan...”



Statutory Authority (cont.)

Education Code Section 17251

(b) "...develop standards for use by school districts in the selection of school sites in accordance with the objectives set forth in subdivision (a)."

(c) "Establish standards for use by school districts to ensure that the design and construction of school facilities are educationally appropriate and promote school safety."



Education Code sections 17211 and 17212

- *Education Code, Section 17211*
District evaluates proposed sites using Title 5 standards. District governing board holds public hearing and approves site for consistency with Title 5 standards.
- *Education Code, Section 17212*
"...final site selection (by a district) is determined by an evaluation of all factors affecting the public interest and is not limited to selection based on raw land cost only"



Codes and Regulations for School Sites

Regardless of funding source, all school districts must:

- Select sites consistent with the standards in Title 5 regulations
- Meet California Environmental Quality Act requirements
- Meet all other applicable laws



Codes and Regulations for School Sites

If funds are to be requested from the State Allocation Board, a district must also receive:

- CDE approval of the site's consistency with Title 5 standards.
(Education Code Section 17070.50)
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approval.
(Education Code Section 17268)

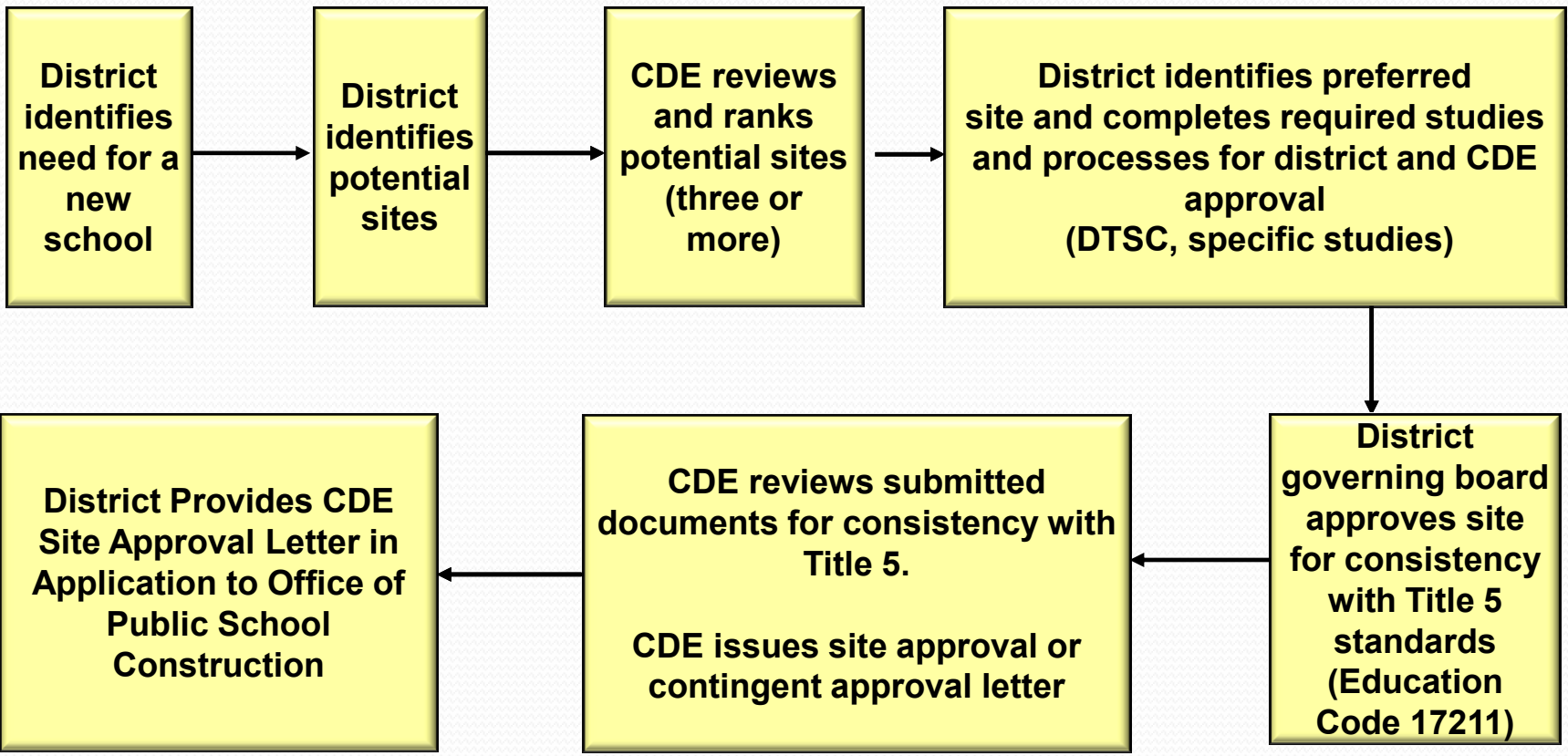


Title 5 Site Standards include:

- Location near projected student population
- Analysis of pipelines within 1,500 feet
- Analysis of railroads within 1,500 feet
- Analysis of powerlines with 350 feet.
- Size and shape of site
- Utilities and other development issues
- Compatibility of surrounding land uses



Site Approval Process Overview--State Funding





Codes and Regulations for School Plans

If funds are to be requested from the State Allocation Board, a district must also receive:

- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approval unless a project is a minor addition not eligible for a statutory or categorical exemption under CEQA

(Education Code Section 17268)

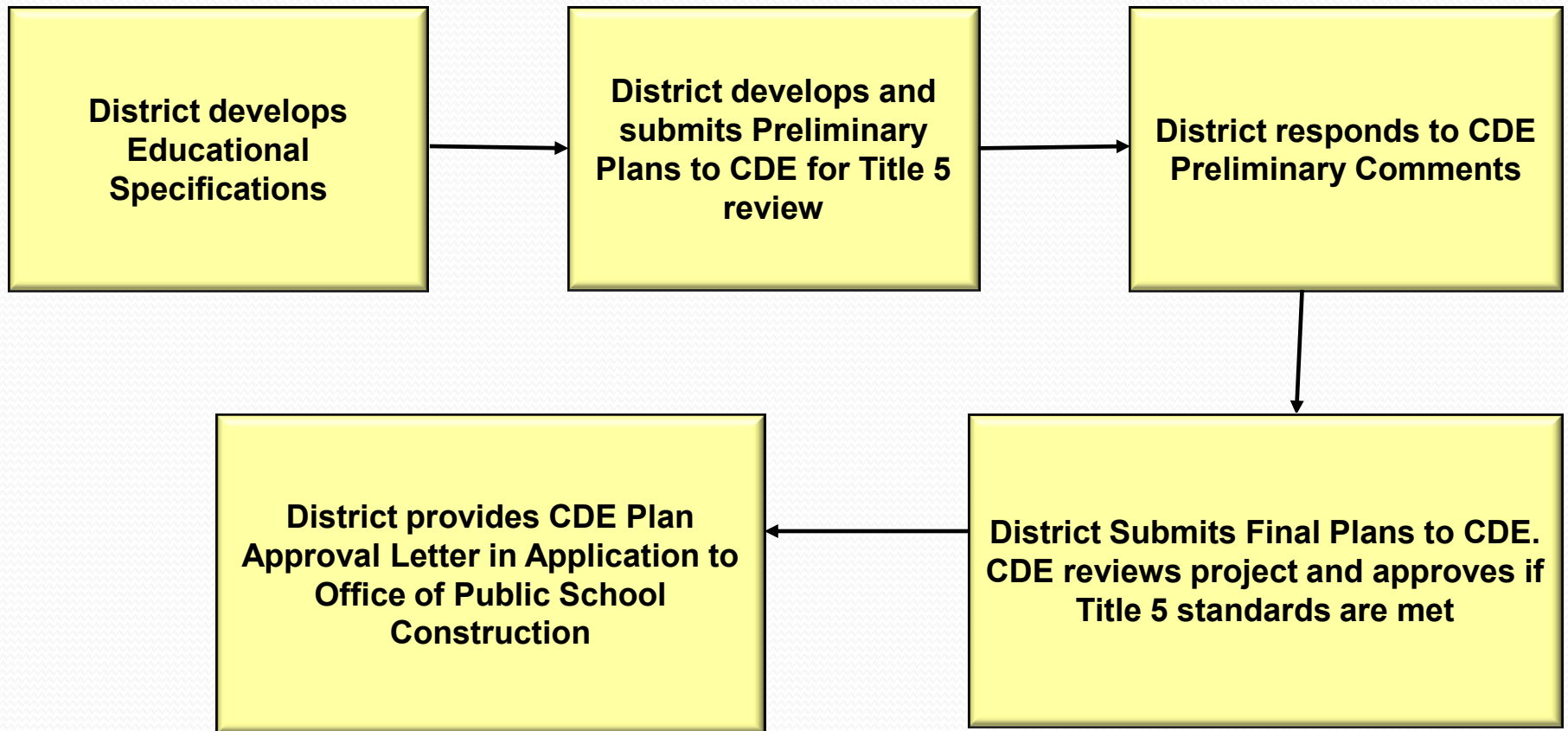


Title 5 Plan Standards include:

- Classroom size
- Separation of vehicles, buses and pedestrians
- Adequacy of support facilities—
 - multipurpose room, library, gym, toilets, fields and hardcourt
- Areas for expansion to accommodate growth



New School Plan Approval Process Overview





Current Initiatives:

- **Green Ribbon Schools Program**
- **Review of Title 5 Regulations**
- **Small School District Assistance Initiative**