

7101 EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects that affect any of the criteria for educational adequacy shall be reviewed and approved by the Division of Administration and Finance (Division) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5 et seq. The criteria are the number, configuration, size, location, or use of educational spaces within a school facility. The review for educational adequacy shall take into consideration the suitability of the number, configuration, size, location, and use of educational spaces; built-in furniture and equipment; and provisions for the disabled.

Projects requiring approval for educational adequacy, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.1 are: new school facilities including pre-fabricated facilities; additions to existing school facilities; alterations to the total number, dimension in volume and/or area, configuration or location of educational spaces or the number of any one kind of educational space; and installation of temporary facilities.

New Jersey Schools Development Authority (Development Authority), Regular Operating District (ROD), along with other capital projects, are subject to educational adequacy reviews pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.1(b). The Executive County Superintendent shall approve any change of use of instructional space that is not a capital project.

Educational specifications for educational adequacy reviews shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.2. Educational specifications shall detail the educational program activities and requirements for each space proposed in the capital project, and shall refer to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards wherever appropriate. The educational specifications shall include an itemized list of furniture, equipment, and support spaces required to conduct the educational program specified for each space, together with their net areas in square feet, as well as the net of the total room area required for each space. The educational specifications shall also include specific technical and environmental criteria, adjacencies and other requirements for the educational program and a building-space program that indicates the number and net area in square feet of each instructional, specialized instructional, administrative, and support space in each existing or proposed building included in the capital project and/or temporary facility.

Schematic plans and other related project documents will be prepared and submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.3.

A project cost estimate on a form provided by the Commissioner of Education, a project schedule, a copy of the dated transmittal letter to the Executive County Superintendent indicating project document submission to the Division, and a copy of the transmittal letter indicating the date of plan submission to the local planning board shall be submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.3(b)4.

In the case of a Development Authority school facilities project, upon completion of detailed plans and specifications, the Development Authority on behalf of the district shall apply, upon completion of detailed plans and specifications, for final approval of the project's educational adequacy of the project in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.4(a). In the case of a ROD school facilities project or another capital project, the school district shall apply upon the completion of final plans and specifications for final approval of the educational adequacy of the project in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.4(b). In the case of a temporary facility, the school district or the Development Authority on behalf of the school district for Development Authority school facilities projects, shall apply upon the completion of detailed plans and educational specifications for approval of the temporary facility's adequacy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.4(c).

The Division shall collect fees for its reviews according to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.5.

For a Development Authority school facilities project not subject to educational adequacy review, the Division shall issue a preliminary project report and shall forward the report to the Department of Community Affairs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.6(a). The review shall require the documentation required by the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.15.

For a ROD school facilities project or other capital project, not subject to educational-adequacy review, the Division shall make a determination of the project's final eligible costs and shall forward their determination to the Department of Community Affairs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.6(b). The review shall include the documentation required by the UCC in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.15.

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.1 et seq.; N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.15

Adopted: November 13, 2017