

# **Special Facilities Construction Account** **Program**

## **Preparing For Committee Review**

**This document is prepared to offer basic advice to districts seeking funding and preparing for review by the Special Facility Construction Review Committee.**

Prepared July 22, 2013

Information contained in this publication was compiled by Chris Doolin  
Consultant to the Small School District Council Consortium

**Special Facilities Construction Account Program**  
**Tips For Presenting to the Special Facilities Construction Committee**

**Introduction**

Congratulations on your district's commitment to address your facility needs and your effort to participate in the Special Facility Construction Account Program.

Created in 1981, the Special Facility Construction Account program has brought substantial and necessary funding to districts that lack the resources to address critical construction needs. The Special Facility Construction Account program is very important to small school districts and it is necessary for the program to function at the highest levels of success.

All prior school projects funded have completed a rigorous process governed by Statutes and Rules and successfully secure funding from the Florida Legislature. All parts of the program are transparent, and the program has succeeded because of the high degree of credibility, validity, and accountability.

The program is a competition. Success depends on being prepared, demonstrating need, successfully communicating the need for the project, and, securing the support necessary at all stages of the program.

**Special Facility Construction Committee**

The Special Facility Construction Committee will be meeting on August 15 to conduct its statutory functions in relation to the Special Facility Construction Account program.

Five school districts have been notified that they will present to the committee. It is presumed that the districts presenting projects to the committee have met statutory requirements and each project has been determined to be a critical need. Each District will present their project and respond to questions.

The committee's role is to review the requests submitted from the districts, to evaluate the ability of the project to relieve critical needs, and, most importantly, to rank the requests in priority order.

At this point in the process – each district has “crossed-the-t’s and dotted the i’s”. Now is the time to attempt to gain a competitive edge through a strong presentation.

**Communication Is Critical!**

- Maintain close and continuous conversations with DEO/OEF to ascertain any information that might be helpful in your presentation.
- Make sure your District Leadership and Community are in sync and demonstrate a solid commitment to the project.
- Make sure your legislative delegation is fully aware of all aspects of the project.
- Prepare your presentation - Rehearse! Rehearse! Rehearse! Don't present “cold”.

### **Tips for Effective Presentation**

The following pointers are provided to assist districts seeking funding:

#### **Attend the meeting with a complete and supportive District and Community Team!**

- Full district team – including School Board members – Note: Advertise the meeting if you feel a majority of Board will be in attendance.
- Community - Include additional Community and Civic Support City managers; EMS Office
- Legislative Support – Invite your House and Senate member to attend the presentation.

#### **Demonstrate and Define Importance of the project to the Community**

- The project is located in a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern
- The county is determined by the State of Florida to be a “Fiscally Constrained” county – 1 mill of property tax generates less than 5 million dollars of ad valorem revenue.
- Document limited fiscal capacity - Point out how much 1.5 mills will generate (See chart)
- Describe how long it would take to generate the funding for the project without the Special Facility Construction Account funding.

#### **Articulate critical need**

- Deliver the information that shows your project is the most important and addresses critical issues!
- Discuss Age of facilities; Life Safety Issues; Student Welfare Issues; and, Growth.
- Discuss any environmental conditions!

#### **Show Community Support**

- Describe why the project is important to the community
- Letters of Support from your Business Community and Civic Leadership

#### **Demonstrate A Competitive Project Cost Figure and Financial Plan!**

- Analyze the project to see if it can be done for less than what might have been discussed in preliminary discussions.
- Try to calculate what funds would be needed in a multi-year approach. Be prepared to share that information with the committee.

#### **Ensure legislative support of the project!**

- Review project with legislative delegation and review the critical need rationale.
- Review the steps the district has taken to prepare and qualify and show your Legislators the site of construction.
- Make sure the district has contact information and including cell phone numbers for the legislator and their legislative staff.

### **Securing Funding Projects are Prioritized**

Once the Special Facility Construction Account priority list is determined, the list shall be submitted to the Legislature in the commissioner’s annual capital outlay legislative budget request and the Governor’s Office will develop a budget request for submittal to the Florida Legislature. At this stage, it will be critical that each district develop a **program to monitor and be engaged in the legislative budget process on behalf of the specific project.**

**Additional information and consultation will be provided once the Special Facility Construction Priority List has been determined.**

## Value of School Ad Valorem Millage for 1.5 mills

<b>Statewide Total Value of 1.5 Mill</b>	<b>\$ 2,075,439,212</b>
--	-------------------------

School District	Value of 1.5 Mill Levy	School District	Value of 1.5 Mill Levy
Miami-Dade	299,076,742	Santa Rosa	12,453,185
Broward	202,691,449	Flagler	11,006,889
Palm Beach	198,671,398	Sumter	10,994,913
Orange	129,517,303	Nassau	10,582,277
Hillsborough	101,348,903	Highlands	7,700,266
Collier	90,419,112	Putnam	5,669,504
Pinellas	90,280,824	Columbia	3,938,145
Lee	85,096,730	Franklin	2,932,875
Duval	82,244,009	Levy	2,847,261
Sarasota	63,024,612	Hendry	2,682,607
Brevard	41,783,079	Okeechobee	2,532,901
Volusia	40,289,661	Suwannee	2,409,233
Polk	39,915,774	Jackson	2,393,501
Seminole	39,612,057	Hardee	2,346,184
Manatee	38,096,886	DeSoto	2,295,507
Pasco	33,703,004	Gulf	2,273,114
Monroe	29,185,207	Gadsden	2,242,789
St. Johns	28,116,847	Wakulla	1,874,939
Martin	27,167,304	Taylor	1,868,785
Osceola	26,629,242	Bradford	1,381,413
Lake	26,082,305	Washington	1,380,964
Marion	24,757,407	Baker	1,317,294
St. Lucie	24,073,730	Hamilton	1,123,618
Bay	23,125,059	Madison	1,001,709
Escambia	22,992,435	Gilchrist	983,327
Leon	22,936,683	Jefferson	880,327
Okaloosa	22,195,260	Glades	880,150
Indian River	21,015,634	Dixie	752,776
Charlotte	20,152,324	Holmes	695,700
Alachua	19,082,428	Calhoun	608,397
Walton	16,814,661	Union	374,517
Citrus	15,132,350	Liberty	371,115
Clay	13,855,996	Lafayette	357,209
Hernando	13,199,405		

## Value of School Ad Valorem Millage for .5 mills

<b>Statewide Total Value of .5 Mill</b>	<b>\$ 691,813,071</b>
---	-----------------------

School District	Value of .5 Mill Levy	School District	Value of .5 Mill Levy
Miami-Dade	99,692,247	Santa Rosa	4,151,062
Broward	67,563,816	Flagler	3,668,963
Palm Beach	66,223,799	Sumter	3,664,971
Orange	43,172,434	Nassau	3,527,426
Hillsborough	33,782,968	Highlands	2,566,755
Collier	30,139,704	Putnam	1,889,835
Pinellas	30,093,608	Columbia	1,312,715
Lee	28,365,577	Franklin	977,625
Duval	27,414,670	Levy	949,087
Sarasota	21,008,204	Hendry	894,202
Brevard	13,927,693	Okeechobee	844,300
Volusia	13,429,887	Suwannee	803,078
Polk	13,305,258	Jackson	797,834
Seminole	13,204,019	Hardee	782,061
Manatee	12,698,962	DeSoto	765,169
Pasco	11,234,335	Gulf	757,705
Monroe	9,728,402	Gadsden	747,596
St. Johns	9,372,282	Wakulla	624,980
Martin	9,055,768	Taylor	622,928
Osceola	8,876,414	Bradford	460,471
Lake	8,694,102	Washington	460,321
Marion	8,252,469	Baker	439,098
St. Lucie	8,024,577	Hamilton	374,539
Bay	7,708,353	Madison	333,903
Escambia	7,664,145	Gilchrist	327,776
Leon	7,645,561	Jefferson	293,442
Okaloosa	7,398,420	Glades	293,383
Indian River	7,005,211	Dixie	250,925
Charlotte	6,717,441	Holmes	231,900
Alachua	6,360,809	Calhoun	202,799
Walton	5,604,887	Union	124,839
Citrus	5,044,117	Liberty	123,705
Clay	4,618,665	Lafayette	119,070
Hernando	4,399,802		