



Council For Lifelong Learning
Classrooms First Program

Fact Sheet

September 2001

<p>1. What is the Classrooms First Lottery Bond Program?</p>	<p>As part of the SMART Schools Act of 1997, the Legislature established a 20-year lottery-bonding program (Classrooms First) designed to provide more than \$2 billion in bonded lottery funds to school districts for the construction of classrooms.</p> <p>All 67 school districts receive a portion of these funds based upon a modified PECO distribution formula.</p> <p>As the name indicates, school districts must build classrooms first. <i>After</i> a school district has met its need for new classroom space, these funds may be used for major repairs or maintenance of existing facilities or the replacement of unsatisfactory relocatables. These funds are <i>not</i> to be used to purchase more relocatables.</p> <p>(See the SMART Schools Act of 1997 Fact Sheet or the Classrooms First Fact Sheet.)</p>
<p>2. How do school districts receive these dollars?</p>	<p>School districts may choose to receive these dollars as cash payments or as bonded proceeds.</p> <p>The only way for a school district to receive these funds as cash payments is for the school board and superintendent to have certified to the Legislature that they had no need for additional new classrooms.</p> <p>As of 2000-2001 fiscal year, eight districts (Calhoun, Collier, Flagler, Franklin, Glades, Indian River, Jefferson, & Taylor) have certified that they have no need for new classrooms and are receiving these funds as cash payments.</p>
<p>3. How much Classrooms First funding has been provided to school districts since the 1997 Special Session?</p>	<p>As of June 2001, \$1.8 billion in Classrooms First awards has been encumbered for specific school projects. Of this amount, \$1.4 billion has been disbursed to school districts.</p>
<p>4. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 24.1219(2), F.S. -- Allocation for the Classrooms First Lottery Bond Program Section 235.187, F.S. -- Classrooms First Lottery Bond Program</p>

5. Where can I get additional information?

Florida Department of Education
Office of Educational Facilities
(850) 487-1130
www.firn.edu/doe

SMART Schools Clearinghouse
(850) 921-8699
<http://smartschools.state.fl.us>

The Florida House of Representatives
Committee on Education Appropriations
(850) 488-6204

The Florida House of Representatives
Council for Lifelong Learning
(850) 414-6694

The Florida House of Representatives
Committee on Education Innovation
(850) 488-7451