



Council For Lifelong Learning
**Special Facility Construction
Account**

**Fact
Sheet**

September 2001

<p>1. What is the Special Facility Construction Account?</p>	<p>The Special Facility Construction Account is funded with Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) dollars and provides construction funds to school districts that have urgent construction needs but lack sufficient resources <u>and</u> cannot reasonably anticipate sufficient resources within three years in order to fund these construction needs.</p> <p>Typically, small, rural school districts are the only ones that qualify for this Account because their property tax values are too low to fund a single, new construction project.</p>
<p>2. Are there limits on the number of construction projects a school district may receive funding for from the Special Facility Construction Account?</p>	<p>Yes. A school district is not eligible to receive funding from the Special Facility Construction Account for more than one construction project during any three-year period.</p>
<p>3. Does a school district have to meet certain criteria in order to receive funds from the Special Facility Construction Account?</p>	<p>Yes. A school district must meet several criteria in order to receive funds from the Special Facility Construction Account, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the construction project must be deemed a critical need and must be recommended for funding by the Special Facility Construction Committee;• the total cost per student station of the facility under construction must not exceed the cost per student station prescribed in law and adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (approximately \$12,719 per elementary school student station; \$14,583 per middle school student station; \$19,298 per high school student station);• the school district must levy two mills against its nonexempt assessed property value and pledge three years of these revenues toward the project; OR the district may pledge the equivalent amount of voter approved $\frac{1}{2}$ cent sales tax revenue to the project; and• the school district must have the Department of Education certify the school district's inability to fund the construction project from currently authorized sources of capital outlay revenue.

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<p>4. What is the history of the Special Facility Construction Account?</p>	<p>Since the 1981-1982 fiscal year, the Department of Education reports that the Special Facility Construction Account has funded 51 separate school district construction projects totaling \$483.4 million. Approximately 69 percent of the total amount has been funded by the State, while approximately 31 percent of the total amount has been funded by local school districts.</p>																		
<p>5. Did the Legislature appropriate funds from the Special Facility Construction Account for the 2001-2002 fiscal year?</p>	<p>Yes. The Legislature appropriated \$57.0 million from the Special Facility Construction Account in order to fund five school district construction projects during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The table below illustrates the distribution of the appropriation.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="673 755 1453 1032"> <thead> <tr> <th>School District</th> <th>Amount of Funds</th> <th>Type of New School to be Built</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baker County</td> <td>\$10.6 million</td> <td>Elementary School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gadsden County</td> <td>\$14.9 million</td> <td>High School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jackson County</td> <td>\$9.9 million</td> <td>High School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taylor County</td> <td>\$10.3 million</td> <td>Elementary School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wakulla County</td> <td>\$11.3 million</td> <td>Elementary School</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School District	Amount of Funds	Type of New School to be Built	Baker County	\$10.6 million	Elementary School	Gadsden County	\$14.9 million	High School	Jackson County	\$9.9 million	High School	Taylor County	\$10.3 million	Elementary School	Wakulla County	\$11.3 million	Elementary School
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<p>6. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 235.435(2)(a), F.S. -- Special Facility Construction Account</p>																		
<p>7. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Office of Educational Facilities (850) 487-1130 www.firn.edu/doe</p> <p>SMART Schools Clearinghouse (850) 921-8699 http://smartschools.state.fl.us</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Appropriations (850) 488-6204</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Council for Lifelong Learning (850) 414-6694</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Innovation (850) 488-7451</p>																		

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