
PRIORITY ORDER OF ASSISTANCE POLICY

Subject: Ranking of Districts
Approval: Commission Resolution 14-14
Code Section/Reference: ORC 3318.011
Owner: Planning

Policy Number: PL-08
Originally Issued: April 2009
Revised: November 2011;
April 2013; December 2017

APPLIES TO

CFAP, ENP, and VFAP

I. GENERAL CONCEPTS

Within each category of funding, the Commission will establish a priority list that will not be re-shuffled. The priority list determines the order in which the Commission serves school districts when available funding limits the number of projects that can be approved in a year. When new districts are added, they will be added at the end of the list. A district's name is removed from the list when a project is conditionally approved for the district.

Annually, the Commission will notify districts of their status on the list and offer districts the opportunity to apply to enter an active planning process to prepare for a conditional approval. The district must respond by applying by a date set by the Commission. Districts that apply by the date given will be prioritized ahead of those districts that do not apply.

Among the categories of funding, allocations of funds will fall within a range described below.

II. PRIORITY WITHIN CATEGORIES

A. Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP):

1. Districts commencing the planning process will receive a number with the lower number going to the district with the lower equity rank in the case of multiple districts. When additional districts are brought into the planning process, they will be assigned the next number.
2. When a district has a CFAP project conditionally approved, it will be removed from the list.
3. If, at any time when the Commission offers funding, the number of projects which have applied and are ready to be approved exceeds the Commission's available funding, the projects to be conditionally approved will be determined by the assigned number, with the lower numbers receiving priority over the higher ones.

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4. The Commission will prioritize funding offers for school districts with an Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP) project, based on their equity rank eligibility at the time of approval of their ELPP project, rather than current equity rank eligibility.

B. Lapsed CFAP

Districts whose funding has lapsed will be prioritized by conditional approval date (where earlier approval is higher priority) and then by equity list rank at the time of conditional approval (where lower equity list rank is higher priority).

C. Subsequent Segments per ORC 3318.04(B)(4)

Districts will be prioritized by last conditional approval date (earlier approval is higher priority) and then by equity list rank at the time of conditional approval (lower equity list rank is higher priority).

D. Exceptional Needs Program (ENP)

Projects will be ranked for each round of ENP assessments per needs of the individual building.

E. Lapsed ENP

Districts whose funding has lapsed will be prioritized by conditional approval date (earlier approval is higher priority) and then by the rank on the ENP Ranking Sheet at the time of conditional approval (lower ranking on the ENP Ranking Sheet is higher priority). Eligibility for districts selected based on overcrowding criteria will be determined through an updated enrollment projection. Where a lapsed ENP district has been conditionally approved under CFAP and lapsed, the district is removed from the ENP Lapsed list.

F. Vocational Facilities Assistance Program (VFAP):

Districts commencing the planning process will receive a number with the lower number going to district with the lower equity rank in the case of multiple districts. When additional districts are brought into the planning process, they will be assigned the next number.

When a district has a VFAP project conditionally approved, it is removed from the list. If, at any time when the Commission offers funding, the number of projects ready to be approved exceeds the Commission's available funding, the projects to be conditionally approved will be determined by the assigned number, with the lower numbers receiving priority over the higher ones.

G. Lapsed VFAP

Districts whose funding has lapsed will be prioritized by conditional approval date (earlier approval is higher priority) and then by equity list rank at the time of conditional approval (lower equity list rank is higher priority).

III. FACTORS IMPACTING PRIORITY ORDER

When determining the priority order of assistance, the Commission will look at the following factors:

1. Lapsed districts have priority
2. Districts with an exceptional increase in enrollment [ORC 3318.04(B)(1)]
3. Districts with cooperative use agreements [ORC 3318.032]
4. Extreme environmental ENP [ORC 3318.37]
5. A STEM school that is not governed by a single school district board of education [ORC 3318.70]

Up to 2 percent of the cumulative appropriation can be set aside for VFAP projects. The Commission may offer funding to at least one joint vocational school district per year of the biennium.

Up to 25 percent of the appropriation may be for ENP projects.

CFAP Subsequent Segments may be up to 25 percent of the appropriation. The Commission may offer funding for all subsequent segment requests if those requests are less than 10 percent of available funding, or a higher percentage if all CFAP projects in planning have been offered funding.

Any remaining appropriation would be for CFAP projects.

The Commission may extend off-cycle offers of funding to districts that have established a credit in an expedited program (ELPP or VFAP ELPP) and are funding ready. Off-cycle refers to an offer made outside of the standard July offer made at the beginning of each fiscal year. To be considered funding ready, a district must have established a credit under an expedited program (ELPP or VFAP ELPP) that is sufficient to support the local share required for a co-funded project (either the balance of the master facilities plan or a CFAP segment that satisfies the segmenting guidelines) and can satisfy the maintenance fund requirement without the approval of a further ballot issue.

Any district that has a credit under ELPP or VFAP ELPP and has received and declined to participate in planning for an offer of funding or has declined an offer of funding in the planning cycle in the preceding fiscal year will not be extended an off-cycle offer of funding, unless the district has provided notice to the commission of the change in their circumstances and indicates by board resolution that they are ready to accept an off-cycle funding offer.

IV. PROCESS

The Commission will contact all districts on priority lists to update them on the status and conditions and ask if the district desires to apply to enter an active planning process.

At or around September 1 each year, when the Ohio Department of Education certifies a new equity list, the Commission updates the priority order of funding list.

Annually, the Commission will decide if additional districts will be offered a chance to engage in the planning process over the next year and be added to the planning priority list. The priority of districts added will be based on the order of the new equity list. The number of districts added will be based on the Commission's determination of the fewest number that will yield enough projects to use all available funding.

The districts will inform the Commission of their intention of moving forward with a project in the upcoming cycle.

Based on available funding and district intentions, the Commission will establish a funding offer and a “waiting list” for upcoming Commission meetings.

At Commission meetings, projects will be conditionally approved. The Commission may elect to seek approval for projects at any of the quarterly meetings.