

EVALUATING EXISTING BUILDINGS

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically evaluate the adequacy and design of existing district facilities to determine whether they meet the needs of the instructional program, provide a healthful and pleasing environment for students and staff, and fulfill legal requirements for safety and structural soundness, accessibility to the disabled, and energy conservation.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 3511 - Energy and Water Conservation)

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

When evaluating existing buildings, the Superintendent or designee shall arrange for the pre-audit and post-audit of school buildings by utility companies or independent energy audit firms to the extent that these services are available. Information provided by these services shall be used to determine the cost of retrofitting the buildings and the savings that may result from adding insulation, making design modifications, or using other energy-conserving devices. The district may contract with qualified businesses capable of retrofitting these buildings and may borrow funds that do not exceed the amount of energy savings to be accumulated from the improvement of the buildings. (Education Code 17651-17653)

In the event that the Department of General Services or any licensed structural engineer or licensed architect finds and reports to the Board of Education that a district building is unsafe for use, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately obtain an estimate of the cost of repairs or reconstruction necessary to bring the building up to legal standards for structural safety. The Board shall establish a system of priorities for the repair, reconstruction or replacement of unsafe school buildings. (Education Code 17367)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17650 et seq Retrofitting school facilities for energy conservation

17280-17316 Building approvals

17365-17374 Fitness for occupancy

17367 Building examinations; required actions upon report of unsafe conditions

GOVERNMENT CODE

53097 Compliance with city or county ordinances

53097.5 Inspection of schools by city or county