

## **COMPETITIVE APPLICATION CRITERIA**

Proposed public school construction or renovation projects submitted by school divisions on the program application are evaluated for funding based on the competitive scoring criteria and their associated point values listed below. All information submitted by school divisions on the program application is subject to additional review, clarification, or verification by the Department. A project qualifies for funding based on the project's ranked project score, with a minimum qualifying score of 65 points required to receive a funding award, contingent on available funding to award a grant for the project.

Proposed public school construction or renovation projects are evaluated and scored according to the eleven scoring criteria and their associated point values listed below to determine the eligible school projects to be awarded grants contingent on meeting the minimum qualifying criteria score of 65 and available grant funding (**maximum scoring criteria points = 100; a minimum qualifying score of 65 points is required for a project to qualify for further consideration for a grant award**):

**1. Maximum of 10 points if the project is for construction of a new school building or for a building-wide renovation (which maximizes useful life compared to minor renovations):**

- 10 points for new school building construction or for a building-wide renovation (refer to *Project Type Definitions* document)
- 5 points for a school building addition (refer to *Project Type Definitions* document)
- 0 points for a minor building renovation (refer to *Project Type Definitions* document)

**2. 5 points if the building being renovated or a building specifically being replaced by new construction has not had any building access modernization improvements as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.**

**3. Maximum of 15 points if the building being renovated, or a building specifically being replaced by new construction is in poor condition:**

- 15 points if the building is in Poor condition (refer to *School Building Condition Definitions* document)
- 10 points if the building is in Fair condition (refer to *School Building Condition Definitions* document)
- 0 points if the building is in Good condition (refer to *School Building Condition Definitions* document)

**4. Maximum of 10 points if 74 percent or greater of the students in the school division are eligible for Free- or Reduced-price meals (including divisions participating in the USDA Community Eligibility Provision program):**

- 10 points if 74 percent or greater of students are eligible for free- or reduced-price meals
- 7 points if 55 to less than 74 percent of students are eligible for free- or reduced-price meals
- 3 points if 40 to less than 55 percent of students are eligible for free- or reduced-price meals
- 0 points if less than 40 percent of students are eligible for free- or reduced-price meals

**5. Maximum of 10 points for the school division Composite Index:**

- 10 points for division Composite Index of 0.0000 to 0.2999
- 7 points for division Composite Index of 0.3000 to 0.5999
- 3 points for division Composite Index of 0.6000 to 0.8000

**6. 5 points if the planned construction, addition, or renovation project is included in the school division's or locality's currently approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). 0 points if not.**

**7. Maximum of 5 points for Commitment**, if: (i) there is an agreement by the local governing body to maintain or increase the percentage of local revenues dedicated to public education throughout the duration of the financing proposed for the project; and (ii) if project design and site acquisition for the project has been fully or substantially completed prior to applying for grant funds under this program:

- 5 points if both criteria i and ii above have been met
- 0 points if either criterion i or ii above have not been met

**8. Maximum of 10 points for Locality Fiscal Stress Designation:**

- 10 points for a locality with a High fiscal stress designation
- 7 points for a locality with an Above Average fiscal stress designation
- 3 points for a locality with a Below Average fiscal stress designation
- 0 points for a locality with a Low fiscal stress designation

**9. Maximum of 10 points for the percentage of residents of the locality in which the school division is located with incomes at or below the federal poverty guidelines** established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

- 10 points for localities with greater than 14.2 percent of residents at or below the federal poverty guidelines
- 5 points for localities with 9 to 14.2 percent of residents at or below the federal poverty guidelines
- 0 points for localities with less than 9 percent of residents at or below the federal poverty guidelines

**10. Maximum of 10 points for the condition of most other school buildings in the school division (not including the building proposed for renovation, addition, or replacement):**

- 10 points if over 50 percent of the other school division buildings are in Poor condition (refer to *School Building Condition Definitions* document)
- 5 points if 30 to 50 percent of the other school division buildings are in Poor condition (refer to *School Building Condition Definitions* document)
- 0 points if less than 30 percent of the other school division buildings are in Poor condition (refer to *School Building Condition Definitions* document)

**11. Maximum of 10 points for Debt Capacity of the Locality** (Debt Capacity for each locality is expressed as a percentage based on Total Tax Supported Debt divided by the sum of Fair Market Value (FMV) of Taxable Real Estate + Assessed Value of Tangible Personal Property + Assessed Value of Public Service Corporations. Source: Ratio Measure 5 from the Auditor of

Public Accounts' *Monitoring for Local Government Fiscal Distress 2020 and 2021 Report - as of April 2022*):

- 10 points for a percentage greater than 6 percent
- 5 points for a percentage of 3 to 6 percent
- 0 points for a percentage less than 3 percent