
State of Arkansas
Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation-
Academic Facilities Catastrophic Program

A program to assist school districts in emergency projects made necessary due to an Act of God or Violence.

Program Overview

- ~~Act 2206 created the Academic Facilities Catastrophic Program. The Program authorizes the Division to distribute state assistance to school districts for emergency facility projects due to an act of God or violence. The law defines a catastrophic project as "repair and new construction for the purpose of supplementing insurance or other public or private emergency assistance received by or payable to the school district."~~
- ~~The law requires that any state assistance under this program shall be used to pay the cost of only the portion of a catastrophic project that is not covered by insurance or other public or private emergency assistance received by or payable to the school district.~~
- ~~Any damage to classroom facilities caused by the age of the facilities or by the lack of timely maintenance to the facilities shall not be eligible for state assistance under this program.~~

Eligibility

- ~~Funding will be based on the district's academic facilities wealth index. The law states "a school district may apply for state financial participation in a catastrophic project if an academic facility in the district is damaged due to an Act of God or violence that could not have been prevented by reasonable maintenance, repair, or renovation of the building."~~

Definition of "Act of God or Violence"

For the purposes of a project qualifying under this program, an "Act of God or Violence" shall be defined as:

An act, event, happening, or occurrence due to natural causes or disaster; a disaster (flood, tornado, fire, earthquake, or other disasters) produced by nature. It is of such character that it could not have been prevented or escaped from by any amount of foresight or prudence or by reasonable degree of care or diligence.

Application Procedure

Applications may be made to the Division beginning on May 4, 2005. A school district is required to apply to the Division within **sixty (60)** days of the damage occurring, unless waived by the Division for good cause. In order to qualify for state assistance, a school district shall submit all of the following to the Division:

1. A Catastrophic Program Application Form.
2. A notarized statement from the school district treasurer certifying that the amount of state assistance requested for the emergency project is not covered by insurance or other public or private emergency assistance received by or payable to the school district.
3. A written estimate from a licensed architect, engineer or contractor of the cost to repair the damaged facilities.
4. How the catastrophic project supports the prudent and resourceful expenditure of state funds and improves the school district's ability to deliver an adequate and equitable education to public school students in the district.

The Division reserves the right to make an independent assessment of the cause of the need for the repair or replacement of classroom facilities.

Division Approval

- Approval of the district's application will be based on the following factors:
 - Compliance with appropriate academic facility standards, including, without limitation, appropriate space utilization;
 - The amount and availability of insurance or other public or private emergency assistance
 - The academic facilities wealth index of the school district; and
 - The prudent and resourceful expenditure of state funds with regard to public school academic facilities.
- The Division will only consider applications for classroom facilities that are consistent with spaces that the Division funds in accordance with the Arkansas School Facility Manual. For example, the Division will not consider applications for the replacement of administrative buildings, athletic fields and other areas not considered an academic facility.
- The Division will consider applications on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the moneys available for the program.

Division Review

- The Division will conduct an on-site visit of the facility in need of emergency repair or replacement to verify the cause of the need for the emergency repair or replacement of a school facility.
- If a determination is made by the Division that 1) an emergency project is necessary due to an act of God or violence, and 2) the state assistance requested for the emergency project is not covered by insurance or other public or private emergency assistance received by or payable to the school district, then the Division may approve state assistance for a school district.

Agreement

No commitment for funding will be made and no funds will be released until the Division has received an agreement signed by the applicant school district. The agreement will provide that a school district is prohibited from using the funds for any purpose other than the approved emergency project.

Reporting Requirements

Participant school districts will be required to submit reports to the Division regarding the status and closeout of the project.

Contact for Assistance

If you have questions regarding the Academic Facilities Catastrophic Program or application process, please contact the Division by phone at (501) 682-4261 or e-mail at info@arkansasfacilities.com.

Arkansas Division of Public School



Arkansas Department of Education

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC FACILITIES and
TRANSPORTATION**
Academic Facilities Catastrophic Program

School District Name: _____

School District Address: _____

County: _____

Superintendent Name: _____

Superintendent Phone: L_J _____ Fax: L _____

Superintendent E-Mail: _____

Please describe the act of God or violence that caused the damage to the facility. Provide an explanation of the need for the emergency project due to the act of God. Give a general overview of the emergency project, including the number of buildings involved and the number of students affected (please attach description).

What is the estimated cost to repair the damage? \$ _____ (Please attach a copy of a written estimate from a licensed architect, engineer or contractor of the cost to replace the damaged facilities)

Specify the date the damage occurred : _____

Specify the amount of your request: \$ _____

If your district is insured for the occurrence, please state the deductible amount and limit of coverage.

Deductible \$ _____ Limit \$ _____

Contact Person:

Name Position

Phone: L_J _____ Fax: () _____

To the best of his/ her knowledge and belief, the undersigned certifies the truth and accuracy of the information provided in this Application Form.

Superintendent Date

Notary My Commission expires _____, 20

