

# **2011-12 STATE AID HANDBOOK**

**STATE FORMULA AIDS AND ENTITLEMENTS FOR SCHOOLS  
IN NEW YORK STATE AS AMENDED BY CHAPTERS OF THE LAWS OF 2011**

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The University of the State of New York  
**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
Office of State Aid  
Albany, New York 12234

schedule, actual Building Aid paid on prospective projects is part of regular Building Aid and is paid to districts as part of the 3609-a General Aid payment schedule.

Initial Building Aid payments on prospective projects due to begin in the 2011-12 aid year will be deferred to July of the 2012-13 aid year where contract signing notification (Form SA-139) was not on file with the Department in time to be included in the frozen data file created in November 2010, even if all other criteria required for aid to start have been met. New York City is subject to a similar deferral provision. If contract signing notification still is not on file in time to be included in the subsequent November frozen data file, initial aid payments will be deferred again.

For districts other than New York City, projects approved by SED on or after 7/1/11 still will be subject to the aid deferral described above, even though initial aid payments on those projects will no longer be tied to the SA-139 contract receipt date. However, for projects approved on or after 7/1/11, the deferral will affect projects due to begin aid in 2012-13 for which the contract signing notification is not included in the frozen data file created in November 2011.

The aidable project cost will be recomputed for any prospective projects currently generating aid if the building is sold or ownership is otherwise transferred. The revenues received by the school district as a result of the sale or transfer will be deducted from the remaining project balance, and a new assumed amortization will be established for the remaining useful life of the project based on the adjusted project balance. Click below for more information:

[https://stateaid.nysed.gov/build/html\\_docs/aid\\_on\\_sale\\_of\\_building\\_memo.htm](https://stateaid.nysed.gov/build/html_docs/aid_on_sale_of_building_memo.htm)

6. *Base year expenditures for security cameras, stationary metal detectors, electric partitions, other security devices and safety devices for electrically operated partitions, room dividers and doors.*

School districts may receive partial reimbursement for base year expenditures associated with security cameras, metal detectors and other security devices. The Commissioner has prescribed a maximum cost allowance of \$2,000 per unit for security cameras and other devices and \$6,000 per unit for metal detectors. Beginning with security camera expense incurred July 1, 2011 and forward, the maximum cost allowance is \$2,000 per unit up to a maximum total security camera expense claim of \$35,000. Click below for more information on the new maximum total security camera claim:

<http://emsc32.nysed.gov/facplan/SecurityCameraMCA051711.html>

In addition, partial reimbursement is available to districts for base year expenditures associated with complying with section 409-f of the education law. Section 409-f requires in part that every electrically operated partition or room divider be equipped with safety devices which stop the forward motion of the partition or room divider, and stop the stacking motion of the partition or room divider, when a body passes between the leading panel of such partition or divider and a wall, or when a body is present in the stacking area of such partition or divider. A special maximum cost allowance of \$6,000 per unit is prescribed by the Commissioner for these devices, and claims must be approved by SED Office of Facilities Planning before aid is generated.

Aid in this category is calculated using the district's *current year* building aid ratio. (See below for more information on building aid ratios)

7. *Current year approved expenditures for lease payments.*

School districts may receive aid on current year expenditures for lease payments on leases that have been approved by the Commissioner. The leases must be for a period of five years or less, except that the term

can exceed five years if voter approval in the lessee district is obtained before the lease is executed. The term of the lease may not exceed the period of probable usefulness for the building. Voter approval must also be obtained in the lessee district in order to undertake capital projects in the leased facility during the term of the lease. School districts may not enter into leases with an option to purchase.

To be eligible for aid, the leased facility must meet requirements for access by individuals with disabilities to facilities and programs as defined by the Commissioner, and the leased space must be used to house pre-k through grade 12 programs (other than 4410 programs), with minimal associated administrative and support services space as approved by the Commissioner.

8. *Base year expenditures for building condition surveys.*

An additional apportionment of aid is available for the structural inspection of school buildings used for instructional purposes and conducted in accordance with sections 409-d and 409-e of the education law, and accompanying regulations. The apportionment equals the product of the building aid ratio and the actual approved expenses incurred by the district in the base year for each school building inspected by a licensed architect or licensed professional engineer, except that the aid amount cannot exceed the structural inspection aid ceiling. The inspection aid ceiling is based on a maximum cost allowance per square foot, adjusted by the commissioner on the basis of an index number reflecting changes in the costs of labor and materials. Building condition surveys are conducted, and this apportionment is paid once every five years. Most school districts claimed aid in 2005-06 and 2006-07 and will therefore claim aid again in 2010-11 and 2011-12 for base year expenses.

9. *Base year expenditures for certain capital outlay projects*

Districts may receive reimbursement for base year capital outlay expenses for projects that are wholly funded through capital outlay and which fall into one of the following three categories:

- a. A project with a total cost of no more than \$100,000. A district may receive aid for a maximum of one such project in any aid year. A district may spend and report the capital expense for such a project over multiple years, and receive aid on the same project over multiple years; however, only one project per year can receive aid.
- b. A construction emergency project. A construction emergency project is a project that is necessary to provide immediate repairs in order to eliminate or mitigate hazards that threaten the health and/or safety of the building's occupants as a result of either the unanticipated discovery of hazardous substances such as asbestos, or significant damage caused by a fire, snow storm, ice storm, excessive rain, high winds, flood or a similar catastrophic event. An emergency project may be carried out prior to receipt of Commissioner's approval, but in order to be eligible for State Aid the project must receive approval from the SED-Office of Facilities Planning.
- c. A project that if bonded, would cause a small city school district to exceed 95% of its constitutional debt limit.

The appropriate building aid ratio will be applied to approved project expenses to determine aid. Capital outlay expenses for projects in these categories are not eligible for Reorganization Incentive Aid.

Click on the link below for more information on Capital Exceptions Aid:

[https://stateaid.nysed.gov/build/html\\_docs/capexc\\_aid.htm](https://stateaid.nysed.gov/build/html_docs/capexc_aid.htm)