

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

In order to ensure safe construction and protect the investment of public funds, the Governing Board requires that a licensed and certified architect or structural engineer be employed to design and supervise the construction of district schools and other facilities.

Note: As added by SB 50 (Ch. 407, Statutes of 1998), Education Code 17070.50 prohibits the State Allocation Board from apportioning state facilities funds under the new program unless the district has certified that the services of an architect, a structural engineer or other design professional has been selected using a "competitive process" consistent with Government Code 4526. The process required by Government Code 4526 must be based on "demonstrated competence and on the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the services." See AR 7140.

The Superintendent or designee shall devise a competitive process for the selection of architects and structural engineers that is based on demonstrated competence and on the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the services required. For each project, he/she shall recommend specific architectural and engineering firms to the Board. The Board shall pay fair and reasonable amounts warranted by the provider's qualifications and competence. The Board need not select the lowest responsible bidder.

(cf. 3311 - Bids)

Note: Although contracts for architectural and other professional services are exempted from the bidding requirements detailed in Public Contract Code 20111, State Allocation Board policy still requires a three percent disabled veteran business participation goal when contracts exceeding \$10,000 for lease-purchase building projects and emergency portable building projects are awarded by school districts and funded by the State Allocation Board; see AR 3312.11 - State Allocation Board Contracts. Architects and other professionals who are not disabled veteran business enterprises can comply with this policy by using subcontractors for goal attainment or by meeting specified "good faith" efforts.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17070.50 Conditions for apportionment

17280-17316 Approvals, especially:

17302 Persons qualified to prepare plans, specifications and estimates and supervise construction

17316 Contract provision re school district property

17371 Limitation on liability of governing board

GOVERNMENT CODE

4525-4529.5 Contracts with private architects, engineering, land surveying, and construction project management firms

14837 Definition of small business

87100 Public officials; financial interest

PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE

20111 School district contracts

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Governing Board shall engage the services of a licensed architect(s) holding a valid certificate or engineer(s) holding a valid certificate for the preparation of plans, specifications or estimates for any construction project, through a signed contract. (Education Code 17302)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

Contractors for any architectural, landscape architectural, engineering, environmental, land surveying or construction project management services shall be selected, at fair and reasonable prices, on the basis of demonstrated competence and professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the services required. (Government Code 4526)

Note: Government Code 4526 requires that the district's selection process include at least items #1-3 below; however, the law does not prescribe the exact procedures that must be followed. Generally, elements of a "competitive process" include advertising and notice of the need for services, objective evaluation and selection criteria, and an appeals process for use by those not selected. Districts may wish to develop procedures consistent with these and other requirements in consultation with legal counsel.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the selection process for projects receiving state funding: (Government Code 4526)

1. Ensures that projects entail maximum participation by small business firms as defined pursuant to Government Code 14837
2. Prohibits practices which might result in unlawful activity such as rebates, kickbacks, or other unlawful consideration
3. Prohibits district employees from participating in the selection process when they have a relationship with a person or business entity seeking a contract which would subject the employee to the prohibition of Government Code 87100

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The selection process may also include: (Government Code 4527)

1. Detailed evaluations of current statements of prospective contractors' qualifications and performance data
2. Discussion of alternative approaches for furnishing the services with at least three firms
3. Selection of at least three firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to provide the required services, in accordance with established criteria and recommended in order of preference

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Contracts shall specify that all plans, specifications and estimates prepared by the contractor shall become the property of the district. (Education Code 17316)