
BULLETIN: PLAN SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL ENERGY EFFICIENCY STIMULUS (SEES) PROGRAM

Division of the State Architect (DSA) documents referenced within this publication are available on the [DSA Forms](#) or [DSA Publications](#) webpages.

PURPOSE

This Bulletin (BU) delineates the plan submittal requirements established with the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 841 (Chapter 372, Statutes 2020) for schools participating in the School Reopening Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair Program, also known as the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus (SEES) Program. The SEES Program is administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC) and provides funding for schools seeking to improve indoor air quality in classrooms and the energy efficiency of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

BACKGROUND

AB 841 (2019-2020 session) amended Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code (PUC), that amongst other changes added Section 1620–1627 to the PUC, which delineates the requirements for participation in the SEES Program administered by the CEC. Effective Jan. 1, 2021, PUC 1621 requires local educational agencies receiving grants through the SEES Program to reopen schools with functional ventilation systems that are tested, adjusted, and, if necessary or cost effective, repaired, upgraded, or replaced to increase efficiency and performance.

IMPLEMENTATION

As of Jan. 1, 2021, local educational agencies receiving grants through the SEES Program are required to submit plans to DSA for energy efficiency upgrades and repairs if the scope of work is not exempt per *IR A-22: Construction Projects and Items Exempt from DSA Review*. Design professionals are encouraged to seek guidance from their local DSA Regional Office on whether the project requires submission by requesting a pre-application meeting using form DSA 91, DSA 92, DSA 93, or DSA 94.

Per PUC 1625, participation in the SEES Program also requires the installation of carbon dioxide (CO₂) monitoring devices in all classrooms, either hard-wired or plugged into an electrical outlet. Plans submitted to DSA that include CO₂ monitors will be reviewed for compliance with PUC 1625 and applicable accessibility requirements if (CO₂) monitoring devices in the classroom require operation by teachers.

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DSA recommends the installation of CO₂ monitors that are hard-wired or integrated into the Energy Management Control System, as appropriate, since the plug-in variety of CO₂ monitors in new construction or alterations may not meet compliance with regulatory requirements in future editions of the CALGreen Code and Energy Code.

PLAN SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Plans shall specify the make and model number of the device and a hard wired or plug-in connection to a power source or Energy Management Control System. Additionally, the plans shall clearly indicate the location of the CO₂ monitoring device in the classroom.

REFERENCES:

AB 841 (Chapter 372, Statutes 2020)

PUC 1620-1627A

A DSA Bulletin is a notification to its stakeholders regarding any issue intended to be directed to a broad group of external stakeholders as well as DSA staff.