

Financial Hardship Checklist - Phase I

DGS OPSC 1 (July 2026)

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☐ New ☐ Renewal

SCHOOL DISTRICT/COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
COUNTY
DATE OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP REQUEST

Financial Hardship submittal package. All incomplete Financial Hardship packages will be returned. This Financial Hardship checklist and funding certification must be submitted in its original form and without any modifications or the district's Financial Hardship package will be marked incomplete and returned to the district.

I. QUALIFYING CRITERIA: County Offices of Education [Per Education Code Section 17075.15(d)(3) and Regulation Section 1859.81(c)(3)]

1. Is this a County Office of Education (COE)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please submit the following:

- Cover letter by COE requesting Financial Hardship Approval. ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Listing of school projects and phases that the COE is requesting Financial Hardship for. ☐ Yes ☐ No

COEs may proceed to Section B4 and sign to complete

II. QUALIFYING CRITERIA: School Districts [Per Education Code Section 17075.15(d)(1, 2 & 4) and Regulation Section 1859.81(c)(1, 2 & 4)]

District must meet Section A and at least one of the items listed in Section B below in order to qualify for Financial Hardship.

Section A

1. Is the district levying developer fees at the maximum rate justified under law? ☐ Yes ☐ No

As of the January 2026 SAB meeting, Level 1 rates were set by the SAB at \$5.38 per square foot for residential permits and \$0.87 per square foot for commercial/industrial permits.

2. Is the district renewing their Financial Hardship for a new construction project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, it must also show evidence of the appropriate level of developer fees assessed (i.e. Level I, Level II, or alternate fee determined by current needs analysis study). The district must have a current (dated within one year of the Financial Hardship request) Needs Analysis Study to justify its fees. Has a copy of the Needs Analysis Study and the school board resolution implementing the fees been submitted? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If the district cannot levy developer fees, has documentation been submitted supporting this assertion that can be verified by OPSC? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, district does not meet current financial hardship criteria

3. Is a copy of the school board resolution implementing the current fees attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. If the district is sharing developer fees with other school district(s): has a copy of the agreement been submitted with the financial hardship package? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What percentage of fees does the district receive from the sharing agreement and what is the rate? _____

If the district is levying the maximum developer fees as indicated in A1 or A2, go to Section B1.

5. If the district is not levying the maximum developer fees, does the district have a current (dated within 2 years of the financial hardship request) developer fee justification study showing a lesser amount to be collected? Is the justification study included in the financial hardship submittal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What is the lower rate that is being assessed? _____

If the district is either levying the maximum developer fee authorized or justifies a lower fee, go to Section B1.

If no, district does not meet current financial hardship criteria

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Section B

1.

Is the district’s current outstanding bonded or school facility related indebtedness at least 60% of the total bonding capacity of the district?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What is the district’s percentage of indebtedness?

If qualifying under this criteria, please submit the following:

A letter from County Audit-Controller certifying the district’s current year assessed valuation.

A copy of the appropriate Bond booklets, COP booklets, or other documentation that verifies the district’s level of bonded indebtedness.

A copy of the last published annual audit report.

If yes, proceed to Section B4 and sign to complete; if no, go to Section B2

2.

Did the district have a successful registered voter bond election for at least the maximum amount allowed under Prop 39 within the previous two years from the date of request for financial hardship status?

☐ Yes ☐ No

The proceeds from the bond election (that represent the maximum amount allowed under the provisions of Prop 39) must be used to fund SFP project(s).

If qualifying under this criteria, please submit the following:

A copy of ballot issue/voter bond pamphlet.

Certification from Registrar of Voters.

Documentation supporting date of election, amount of bond; purpose of bond; percent of “Yes” vote on bond.

If yes, proceed to Section B4 and sign to complete; if no, go to Section B3

3.

Is the district’s total bonding capacity at the time of the request for Financial Hardship status \$5 million or less (for applications received on or before October 30, 2024), or \$15 million or less (for applications received on or between October 31, 2024 through June 30, 2026) or \$15,430,500 or less (for applications received on or after July 1, 2026)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If qualifying under this criteria, please submit the following:

A letter from County Audit-Controller certifying the district’s current year assessed valuation.

If yes, proceed to Section B4 and sign to complete; if no, district does not qualify for financial hardship

4.

SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE		DATE
PLEASE PRINT NAME:	CONTACT NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS: