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## Californians allocate \$100 million for green schools

### ***Funds distributed based on design standards; more green features mean more state money***

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With the passing of Proposition 1D in California, voters allocated \$100 million dollars to fund the design and construction of energy efficient, healthy school facilities for the California public school system.

"This vote cements California as a leader in creating the next generation of schools for its students," said Kristin Heinen, Assistant Director for the Collaborative for High Performance Schools, Inc. (CHPS), which created design standards for the awarding of the funding. "This funding is really the first of its kind in the state and secures the continued design and construction of greener, healthier schools in our state."

The funding is part of a larger \$10.4 billion package to upgrade public schools, including kindergarten through twelfth grade, community colleges, and state universities.

Green schools, also called high performance schools, are school facilities that have been newly constructed or renovated to include design features to improve energy, water and resource efficiency and attend to occupant health and comfort.

Earlier this year, the Division of the State Architect of California and the California Schools working group recommended the CHPS design standards to be used in the design and construction of all high performance schools in California. These standards include benchmarks on energy and water efficiency, materials use, site selection, and indoor

environmental quality.

The newly allotted money will be distributed to schools based on how many green design features they choose to include in their design. “This promises to be a really great incentive program that will result in the healthiest, most environmentally-friendly schools possible, while simultaneously easing the financial burden on our school districts,” said Heinen.

The success of California’s high performance school design standards has inspired the adoption of CHPS standards in New York, Massachusetts, Washington, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut. In California, fifteen school districts throughout the state have established district resolutions requiring all future schools meet the CHPS design criteria.

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*Founded in 2000, CHPS is a non-profit organization that works to raise the standard for California school facilities. CHPS’s mission is to improve the quality of education for California’s children and facilitate the design of learning environments that are resource efficient, health, comfortable, well lit and contain the amenities needed for a quality education. Board members include representatives from a broad range of California government, private industry, and non-profit organizations. For more information about CHPS, visit [www.chps.net](http://www.chps.net).*