



FY 2020 SFB Tribal Report

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The charge of the School Facilities Board (SFB) is to maintain, manage, and administer the capital finance program known as Students FIRST (Fair and Immediate Resources for Students Today.) This program is funded by appropriations from the State General Fund. The SFB consists of nine voting members appointed by the Governor. The Superintendent of Public Instruction also serves as a non-voting member. The SFB is supported by an Executive Director and a small professional and administrative staff. The Board is charged with the administration of three capital funds: 1) New School Facilities Fund (A.R.S. §15-2041); 2) Building Renewal Grant Fund (A.R.S. §15-2032); and 3) Emergency Deficiencies Correction Fund (A.R.S. §15-2022). The SFB funding is only available for Arizona K-12 School Districts and is not available for BIE, charter, or private schools.

Tribal Liaison

The SFB has designated Liaison Debora Norris to serve as the Tribal Liaison. That assignment has helped focus SFB awareness of tribal issues and concerns in our work with school districts serving tribal lands. The Tribal Liaison will continue to be the point of contact for the SFB on all matters related to the 22 Indian Tribes/ Nations of Arizona.

Tribal Government Consultation Policy

The SFB's adopted Tribal Government Policy (policy book Section X) is available on the agency's website at <https://sfb.az.gov/board-information/policies-opinions/sfb-policy-book>.

Tribal Consultation Activities

The SFB has consistently adhered to its Tribal Government Policy with respect to fair and equitable treatment of school facilities on tribal lands, when compared to that provided to other schools throughout the State. Assistance to the school districts is primarily through the personal contact of the SFB School Facilities Liaisons, each of whom is assigned to specific districts.

The SFB has provided funding and technical assistance to school districts that include those with school facilities on tribal lands, the majority of which are in rural areas of the State. The level of service and attention provided to those school districts is on par with that provided all school districts.

New School Facilities Fund

School districts may submit an annual capital plan for analysis of enrollment projections to determine their need for new school facilities pursuant to A.R.S. §15-2041. School districts qualify for new space when ADM projections indicate a need within the next 2 fiscal years. The Legislature appropriates the funding based on the new construction cost index, including funding needed for land and site conditions.

The New School Facilities awards in FY 2020 did not include any that were on tribal lands.

Building Renewal Grant Fund

The Building Renewal Grant program is an online application-based program. School districts must apply by submitting an application on the SFB website. State assistance for building renewal is appropriated from the General Fund each year. The appropriation to the Building Renewal Grant Fund for FY 2020 was \$76,085,800.

The school districts on tribal lands awarded Building Renewal Grant funding in FY 2020 are listed here:

| <i>District</i> | <i>Total BRG funding FY '19</i> |
|------------------------|--|
| Cedar Unified | \$658,397 |
| Red Mesa Unified | \$155,581 |
| Window Rock | \$23,969 |
| Sanders Unified | \$25,205 |
| Total | \$863,152 |

Emergency Deficiencies Correction Fund

The Emergency Deficiencies Correction program is an online application-based program. School districts must apply by submitting an application on the SFB website. The Emergency fund does not normally receive an annual appropriation, rather excess funds in the New School Facilities fund may be transferred to the Emergency Deficiencies Correction fund pursuant to A.R.S. §15-2022.

There were no school districts on tribal lands awarded Emergency Deficiencies Correction funding in FY 2020.

5-Year Assessments

A.R.S. §15-2002.A.3 requires the SFB to inspect school buildings once every five years to ensure the compliance with building adequacy standards as prescribed in A.R.S. §15-2001. These inspections are designed to verify the reported size of each school and to ensure that each school continues to meet all school facility minimum adequacy guidelines.

Each fiscal year, SFB staff performs 5-year assessments of randomly selected school districts. The school districts selected for FY 2020 did not include any that were on tribal lands. As a matter of course, at the end of each inspection, the school district governing board is notified about any identified deficiencies and the SFB works with the school district to develop a plan to correct these deficiencies.

Preventative Maintenance Inspections

A.R.S. §15-2002.A.3 requires the SFB to randomly select twenty school districts every thirty months and inspect them with regard to routine preventative maintenance. The Preventative Maintenance Inspections have revealed some inadequacies in the preventative maintenance being performed by school districts; while the school districts indicate this is mostly resulting from lack of funding and staffing levels. Nonetheless, it appears school districts are performing preventive maintenance to the best of their abilities with the resources they have.

Prior to performing any inspections, the SFB provides the school district staff with a self-evaluation questionnaire, the inspection criteria, and the forms SFB staff will use during the inspection process. The SFB also facilitates a training workshop as part of the inspection process to help individual school districts with staff training and a 6-month follow-up to reinforce school district staff knowledge.

The school districts selected for FY 2020 did not include any that were on tribal lands.

For questions or for more information, please contact Debora Norris, SFB Tribal Liaison, at 602-542-6139 or by email at dnorris@azsfb.gov.