



219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641 (p) 802-479-1030 | (f) 802-479-1835

Testimony to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions: Emergency School Construction Aid Program February 13, 2019

Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education
Cassandra Ryan, Fiscal and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator

Title 16, V.S.A. §3448: (d) Emergency aid. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary may grant aid pursuant to subdivision (a)(7) of this section for a project the Secretary deems to be an emergency, up to a maximum total project cost of \$100,000.00.

SBE Rule Series 6000

1. Emergency construction aid is
 - a. reserved for projects that are both unanticipated and result in a safety concern for occupants.
 - b. limited to 30% of actual costs up to a maximum eligible project cost of \$100,000.
 - c. applied to eligible project costs after insurance claims and other sources of assistance.
 - d. paid on a first come / first serve based on the completion of a financial audit.
 - e. not for deferred maintenance.
2. Currently, there is no emergency construction aid available for costs over \$100,000. If the net project costs exceed \$100,000, the district may still apply for aid, but emergency construction aid will be paid as 30% only on the first eligible \$100,000 expended.
3. It is **not** necessary for a School District to receive approval prior to starting construction.
4. The bid law (Title 16, V.S.A. §559) does not apply to emergency situations.
5. The AOE requests \$50K/ year for Emergency projects which typically funds 2-4 projects.
6. If no emergency construction funds are available at the completion of the financial audit the AOE will delay payment until funding is appropriated.
7. Currently, the Agency has four approved emergency projects. A fifth project was identified on Friday 2/8/19. The application for the new project will be received shortly, but all indications are that it will be "approvable".