



Emergency Construction Aid

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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.

Emergency construction aid is

- not part of the suspension on state school construction aid.
- reserved for projects that are both unanticipated and an imminent health and safety hazard to the building's occupants.
- limited to 30% of actual project costs up to a maximum eligible project cost of \$100,000.
- applied to eligible project costs after insurance claim, settlements, etc.
- paid as a reimbursement on a first come / first serve basis – based on the completion of a financial audit and availability of funds.
- not for deferred maintenance.

Simplified Application Process

State Board of Education Rule 6129.1

The application requires:

- information on how the project will be funded;
- a detailed description of the nature and extent of the imminent health and safety hazards that exist, and the extent they would be alleviated by the project;
- certification of the above by an independent and qualified authority ;
- the estimated cost of the emergency construction with documentation where feasible by two or more independent qualified cost estimators;
- approval of all applicable state agencies;
- required to be signed by the Superintendent and the School Board Chair

Expedited Process

- It is not necessary for a School District to receive approval from the AOE prior to starting construction.
- 16 V.S.A. § 559 - the Vermont public bid law does not apply to emergency repairs

Emergency Project Costs Over \$100K

Currently, there is no emergency construction aid available for project 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.

In 2022 AOE made full payment on two completed projects approved for emergency construction aid:

#	School	Description	Project Costs	Aid Paid
E-100	Charlestown Elementary School	Sewer back-up in kitchen / pipe failure	\$22,063.87	\$6,619.16
E-101	Barnet Town School	Water main leak. Pump burst, destroyed area where students eat - into the walls in the kitchen. Water was shut off for three days, Students and staff were sent home.	\$28,627.59	\$8,588.28

AOE has received notification of the following situations, but no determination of approval can be made before completed application is received:

- Randolph High School and CTE: Boiler system failed - Main supply pipe has split – Pipe is under foundation and parking lot to get to the pipe. There is no heat or water. Required to close the school.
- Wells Village School: Fire Alarm System and Bell Tower
- Westminster Central School: Power Surge

Current Funds:

Carry forward from 07/01/2020	\$34,760.56	To be reverted
Carry forward from 07/01/2021	\$49,549.00	\$49,549.00
Carry forward from 07/01/2022	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
	\$134,309.60	\$99,549.00

Request

- The AOE requests \$50K/ for each of the two years.
- Due to the nature of an emergency it is not possible to predict the need.
- This amount typically funds 2-4 projects.
- These projects are not budgeted so these funds assist districts with these unexpected costs.
- If no emergency construction funds are available at the completion of the financial audit the AOE will delay payment until funding is appropriated.