

## School Construction Policy Report August 28, 2014

### Initial Stakeholder Outreach Meetings

Issue/action
Initial outreach meetings to follow up SBPAC report and for future planning

Consistent with suggestions from OPM during the development of the February 7, 2014 SBPAC Report, DAS staff have been conducting outreach meetings with key stakeholder groups regarding the recommendations of the SBPAC Report and to invite their input on the state school construction process.

The meetings conducted so far have been meant as the initial communication in what is expected to be ongoing discussions. The agenda for each of these meetings has been as follows:

1. Impetus behind this work. SBPAC 2/7/2014 Report.
2. Background: Creating policy options and implementing policy to ensure an efficient school construction program.
3. Research conducted: Surveys of systems in Massachusetts, New York City and elsewhere, input from private sector and findings.
4. General goals, including:
  - a. Addressing problems municipalities face related to early-stage cost estimating used for local authorization referenda.
  - b. Addressing programmatic guidelines that currently result in significant numbers of exception requests to the legislature.
5. Inviting observations and ideas from each group. What can be improved?

So far, these initial outreach meetings have been with the following groups:

- **The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).** CABE is an association of local school boards. CABE plans to survey local school districts on their concerns about the existing school construction grant process and ideas for improvements.
- **The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM).** CCM is an association representing municipal governments in Connecticut. CCM staff is similarly reaching out to their members for input.
- **The Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO).** CASBO represents school district administrators responsible for the business side of operating school districts, such as facility needs. With direct experience and expertise in school construction, CASBO expressed interest in active involvement in policy development going forward.
- **The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS).** CAPSS represents superintendents in public schools. The Association plans to have discussions with member superintendents to gain their input.
- **The Regional Educational Service Center Alliance (RESC Alliance).** RESCs are the six regional organizations established under state law and policy to provide services to local school districts and, increasingly, to operate school programs of their own. RESC representatives offered to be actively involved in policy development and to offer the role RESCs might play in changes to the school construction process.

There are other organizations with whom DAS staff plan to meet, as well. Noteworthy in this are the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Associated General Contractors of Connecticut (AGC) and the Connecticut Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

Staff has had ongoing discussions with groups to follow-up the initial meetings that have been held. Since each group was asked for their input, follow-up meetings and discussion is planned in order to have a productive give-and-take dialogue that can inform policy recommendations to be made by DAS staff and SBPAC.